

Spanish Senado delegation arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Spanish Upper House of Parliament (Senado) Jose Fredrico de Carvajal arrived here Wednesday on a week-long visit to Jordan at the head of an official delegation. The delegation will hold discussions with Jordanian parliamentarians and officials focusing on strengthening Spanish-Jordanian relations. Talks will also cover Middle Eastern affairs and international issues. The visit comes in the wake of another made to Jordan in the past week by a Spanish delegation including Lower House of Parliament members. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior government officials held talks with the delegation. Mr. De Carvajal and his delegation were greeted upon arrival by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and House members Abdul Rahman Khalifa, Ali Hassan Odeh and Amer Khammash.

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UNRWA to transfer Hallqvist

VIENNA (Special) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees plans to transfer its director in Amman, Mr. Per Olof Henning Hallqvist of Sweden, to Lebanon and appoint Mr. Peter Hawkins of Britain in his place with effect from Nov. 1, 1986. Mr. Hawkins joined UNRWA in 1964 and served the agency in various posts in administration and management before being appointed field director of UNRWA operations in the occupied Gaza Strip and UNRWA representative to Egypt in July 1981.

Iraq reports repulsing Iranian attack

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq said its forces repulsed an Iranian counter-attack Wednesday in its southeastern Misan province where Iraq reported recapturing several hills in attacks launched to mark the 39th anniversary of its ruling Arab Baath Party. Baghdad Radio quoted an unidentified Iraqi military spokesman as saying an Iranian brigade tried to advance on the newly-captured Iraqi positions in the Sharhani border region, but was beaten back after suffering heavy losses. It added that 117 bodies of Iranian soldiers killed during Monday's and Tuesday's Iraqi attacks were counted at Sharhani, facing the southern Iranian city of Dezful.

Benjedid offers to host PLO talks

ALGIERS (AP) — President Chadli Benjedid has urged all the rival Palestinian factions to gather in Algiers for a conference to seek their reunification into a single movement. In a speech late Tuesday to veterans of Algeria's eight-year war of independence, Mr. Benjedid proposed that all Palestinian organisations without exception should "reunite the Palestine Liberation Organisation under a single leadership which would faithfully reflect the views of the Palestinian people."

Van den Broek in Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek arrived in Syria on Wednesday to examine Middle East peace prospects and a possible role for the European Community (EC). Mr. Van den Broek, current president of the community's council of ministers, told reporters on arrival he was asked by his community colleagues to contact parties to the Middle East conflict and get to know their views on the peace issue.

Tehran bomb kills 1, wounds 21

NICOSIA (AP) — A 70-year-old man was killed and 21 other people were injured on Wednesday in a "terrorist" bomb explosion in downtown Tehran, Iran's official Islamic Republic. News Agency (IRNA) reported. IRNA said six of the injured were in critical condition.

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Murphy arrives in Cairo amid U.S. denials of any new Mideast 'initiative'

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

U.S. SPECIAL envoy Richard Murphy arrived in Cairo on Wednesday amid denials in Washington that he was carrying a new American initiative to revive the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, was scheduled to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid Wednesday night and President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday. Reports from Cairo indicated that the focus of the U.S. envoy's talks in the Egyptian capital was relations between Egypt and Israel rather than overall Middle East peace efforts.

Mr. Murphy arrived in Cairo from Israel after talks with senior Israeli officials.

In Washington, the State Department has denied that the visits to Israel and Egypt by Mr. Murphy, who was originally scheduled to accompany Vice-President George Bush currently visiting the Gulf, did not herald a new American initiative towards reviving efforts for Arab-Israeli peace talks.

State Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman confirmed on Tuesday that Mr. Murphy's current visit was to take him to "several" countries in the Middle East. However, Redman said, the assistant secretary of state was not carrying with him any "new peace plan or initiative."

The report of a new U.S. initiative had come in a press conference held in Bahrain late Tuesday by Mr. Bush. He said the U.S. was pursuing a new "initiative" to try to bring peace to the Middle East but that he was "not at liberty" to give details. The vice-president referred to Mr. Murphy's visit to Israel and Egypt as a "signal that we are taking up again an active pursuit of some solution."

But Redman said in Washington that "we thought it would be useful to take advantage of Mr. Murphy's presence in the (Middle East) by having him go to several countries the vice-president was not scheduled to visit."

"The vice-president said that Mr. Murphy would be exploring

the prospects for peace. He specifically said that Mr. Murphy did not have a new peace plan or initiative," Redman said. "We obviously have other interests in the area, some of which are related to the peace process. For example, there have been recent proposals for regional economic development and ways to advance Egyptian-Israeli relations."

On Tuesday, Mr. Bush, asked if he was saying there was a new U.S. peace plan for the Middle East, replied, "I didn't say 'new plan,' I said 'new initiative.'"

In diplomatic circles, the phrase "new initiative" usually means a major attempt to get antagonists around a bargaining table.

Reporters travelling with him heard Mr. Bush use the word "initiative" twice, and a senior vice-presidential aide, who asked not to be identified, later told Reuters Mr. Bush had overstated the importance of Mr. Murphy's travels.

Mr. Murphy made a one-hour stopover in Cairo on Tuesday and he told reporters that the U.S. was looking for ways to get the peace process moving again.

Diplomatic efforts to organise Middle East peace talks broke down in February after Jordan suspended political coordination with the PLO because of disagreements over United Nations

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(Continued on page 3)

Bush visits nuclear carrier near Oman

ABOARD USS ENTERPRISE (Agencies) — Vice-President George Bush, a U.S. navy pilot in World War II, flew from Oman on Wednesday to this nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to dramatise the U.S. commitment to defend vital sea lanes in the Gulf.

As the huge warship cruised the Gulf of Oman about 160 kilometres south of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, Mr. Bush, his wife Barbara, and members of his party watched carrier operations, including the launch and recovery of F-14 Tomcat jet fighters.

The vice-president, mid-way through a four-nation tour of the Gulf region, also joined a group of enlisted men for a lunch.

Later, on a deck crowded with crewmen of the 90,000-tonne Enterprise, he said "Battlegroup Foxtro" — code name for the 10-ship task force on station in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush flew to the Enterprise by helicopter before starting a two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman, third stop on his 10-day tour. He earlier visited Saudi Arabia and Bahrain and goes on to North Yemen later this week.

Mr. Bush rejected the idea that the confrontation had bolstered the Libyan leader's image in the Arab World.

He contended that U.S. carrier pilots involved in the confrontation had taught Col. Qadhafi a lesson.

Mr. Bush flew to the Enterprise by helicopter before starting a two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman, third stop on his 10-day tour. He earlier visited Saudi Arabia and Bahrain and goes on to North Yemen later this week.

Army officer shot dead in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Gunmen assassinated an army officer in west Beirut on Wednesday, a day after car bombs and a clan feud left 28 people killed and 116 injured in strife-ridden Lebanon.

Police identified the murdered officer as Major Amin Ali Kasseem, 37, a Shiite Muslim. The killers intercepted him as he drove to work at a jammed crossroad and raked him with gunfire.

The officer died instantly behind the wheel. The assassins jumped into a waiting car and sped off while other motorists raced away, honking their horns in panic, according to police.

They said they have no clue to the identity of the killers or their motive.

The assassination at the morning rush-hour in front of the walled main Druze temple in west Beirut's Verdun district.

Maj. Kasseem became the third Lebanese army officer to be gunned down in west Beirut within a year. The two other previous victims were a Shiite and a Druze.

A suicide bomber on Tuesday rammed an explosive-laden Mercedes into a checkpoint manned by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in the U.N.-policed foothills of Mount Hermon.

Beirut Radio said the bomber and a Lebanese civilian were killed.

Syria's ruling Socialist Baath Party claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing, the first against Israel's self-declared "security zone" in the south this year.

Syria's state television screened a recorded tape in which the bomber identified himself as Haidar Kaiss, 16, a Baathist from east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

The bomber, dressed in a Baathist militia uniform, said he was staging the operation as part of the national resistance to the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon.

Another car bomb exploded Tuesday in Jounieh, a mostly Christian port city, near President Amin Gemayel's Falange Party office in a square teeming with noon-time shoppers and office workers.

The blast came amid a bloody power struggle for control of Lebanon's Christian heartland that has killed more than 450 people and wounded more than 1,100 this year.

Chief Warrant Officer Yousef Bitar, the top army explosives expert, estimated the blue BMW car was packed with 75 kilograms of TNT, plastic and hexogen.

Another Frenchman feared kidnapped in west Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Michel Brian, a French teacher with the College Protestant Francois (CPF) school in west Beirut, disappeared and was feared kidnapped on Wednesday, a French embassy spokesman reported.

The spokesman, Francois Ahi Saah, said CPF reported to the embassy that Mr. Brian failed to show up for work on Wednesday. He has been teaching French with CPF since 1980.

"The embassy is making all the necessary contacts to investigate his fate," Ahi Saah said.

Other embassy sources said gunmen kidnapped Mr. Brian, 38, as he walked from his apartment in west Beirut's Hamra commercial district to the CPF in Koraitem neighbourhood about five blocks away.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he was snatched near Hamra's Modest sidewalk cafe. The embassy reported the abduction to the Lebanese Information Ministry and asked for government intervention to help free him, the sources added.

Friends at the Information Ministry's press centre said Mr. Brian had told them he would go to the centre to make a long-distance telephone call at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Bhutto flies home from exile

LONDON (R) — Exiled Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto left for home on Tuesday, pledging to initiate a vigorous campaign to unseat President Zia Ul Haq, the man who ousted her father and sanctioned his execution.

"I am going back to test democracy," Miss Bhutto told reporters before boarding a flight from London's Gatwick airport to Pakistan.

Immaculately dressed in a silk dress and wearing heavy make-up, Miss Bhutto, 32, ended two years of self-imposed exile to seek the support of a Muslim and traditional nation against President Zia, who has vigorously pursued a programme to Islamise Pakistan.

Her return to Pakistan was made possible after Gen. Zia lifted martial law at the end of Dec-

ember and allowed opposition political parties to function freely.

Miss Bhutto said she was going to set up her base in the city of Lahore, the intellectual capital of Pakistan where her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was popular.

"Lahore has proved the field where many a dictator has fallen," she said.

News of her return has already generated a wave of enthusiasm and excitement among her supporters who refer to her as "the destiny of the nation."

isan People's Party (PPP) founded by her prime minister father, said that as a first step towards genuine democracy she would start a nationwide peaceful campaign aimed at drumming up support for the dissolution of parliament and other institutions set up by President Zia.

King, Queen return

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned to Amman on Wednesday at the end of a tour that took them to the Sultanate of Brunei, the Republic of Indonesia and the Sultanate of Oman.

At the outset of the tour, the King and Queen visited Brunei where they met with Sultan Muda Hassan Bolkiah and senior officials.

A Jordanian delegation accompanying the King held talks with Brunei officials on Jordan's economic and trade ties with the Sultanate of Brunei.

Following their visit to Brunei, the King and Queen visited Indonesia where they met with President Suharto. The King and President Suharto discussed regional issues of concern to Jordan and Indonesia and dwell on the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East. During the visit the Jordanian delegation concluded an agreement with Indonesia to boost bilateral trade and launch cooperation in tourism, agriculture and industry.

In a joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of the King's visit, Jordan and Indonesia called for total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and emphasised the need for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf war.

The last stop of the King and Queen was Oman. The King and Queen were accompanied on a tour of the southern regions of Oman by Sultan Qaboos of Oman and senior officials on Tuesday.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, Her Royal Highness Princess Taghreed, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other members of the royal family were at hand to greet the King and Queen upon their return to Amman.

Also present were Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and other officials.

Returning with the King and Queen was Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.



His Majesty King Hussein, who returned to Amman on Wednesday after visits to Brunei, Indonesia and Oman, is received by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem (Petra photo)

Reagan and Gorbachev move closer towards second summit

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan was expected to outline on Wednesday his hopes and aims for his second summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for which preparations are planned to begin in mid-May.

Mr. Reagan scheduled a nationally-televised news conference for Wednesday night, 12:30 (GMT), one day after receiving Mr. Gorbachev's long-awaited assurance he was ready to go ahead with a summit in Washington this year.

The actual date was left to preparatory negotiations between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze which will begin here in mid-May.

Both Moscow and Washington have agreed the summit had to achieve "some significant substantive results," Mr. Shultz told reporters on Tuesday.

U.S. aims at the summit were certain to be among the questions Mr. Reagan will face at his news conference, along with such subjects as frayed relations with Libya, Washington believes Libya had a guiding hand in last week's

TWA airliner blast in which four Americans died and a West Berlin nightclub blast which killed an American serviceman. (See page 2).

The president was also expected to renew his demand for Congress to grant \$100 million in military and economic aid to Nicaraguan anti-Sandinista rebels, known as Contras.

Mr. Gorbachev's agreement for preparatory sessions on the next summit were conveyed to Mr. Reagan on Tuesday by Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, who carried a letter from the Soviet leader to the president.

Mr. Dobrynin said what was scheduled as a farewell visit to the White House before he returns to a major foreign policy post in the Kremlin after a quarter-century in Washington.

However, the scheduled 20-minute call developed into a 75-minute discussion because the two men "had a lot to talk about," according to White House spokesman Larry Speakes.

Mr. Shultz said after the session: "We haven't set any date. We have agreed on a meeting of foreign ministers."

The disclosure came as the U.S. Energy Department postponed a planned underground nuclear explosion in the Nevada desert, but the State Department said the delay was not linked to politics.

"Our testing programme is established and conducted according to technical considerations," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said. "Tests may be delayed due to weather conditions or to a variety of technical problems."

Speakes concurred. But neither Redman nor Speakes explained why the test was postponed.

In Las Vegas, Senator Edward Kennedy said scientists were to try again on Wednesday to carry out the test.

Sen. Kennedy said at a Tuesday news conference that the test had been rescheduled for Wednesday morning.

Anti-nuclear demonstrators promised to return to the Nevada test site, where 83 protesters were arrested Tuesday and six Monday.

Moscow declared a unilateral moratorium on nuclear weapons testing last fall but has said it would end the ban once the United States carries out another test.

Qadhafi says anti-U.S. military plans finalised

TRIPOLI (AP) — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi said on Wednesday that he and his top commanders had finished making military plans to challenge the United States, and renewed his threats against American targets worldwide.

Col. Qadhafi invited about 10 news reporters to his heavily-guarded bunker in Tripoli. They were escorted behind a sandbag barricade to the tent where Col. Qadhafi conducts many of the affairs of government.

Shortly after the reporters were placed in position about 30 metres from the front of the tent, about 20 top-ranking military commanders broke up a meeting and said goodbye to Col. Qadhafi.

The colonel, dressed in a green military uniform with a black belt, then answered questions for about 20 minutes.

"We have just finished making military plans for confrontation in response to the latest American threats to us," he said. He spoke in Arabic.

"It is axiomatic that America will be defeated militarily," Col. Qadhafi said. "It is axiomatic that if aggression is directed against us, then we shall escalate the violence against American targets, civilian and non-civilian, throughout the world."

It was Col. Qadhafi's first press conference since the Gulf of Sirte fighting with the United States that resulted in the sinking of

three Libyan patrol boats last month.

He implicitly confirmed previous widespread reports that Libya had suffered casualties in the fighting.

"Casualties are not important to us. What is important to us is that the line of death was baptised with Libyan and U.S. blood," he said. Col. Qadhafi says that Libyans shot down up to six American pilots, but the Pentagon has dismissed that claim.

The "line of death" signifies the outer boundary to the Gulf of Sirte off Libya's northern coast.

Col. Qadhafi also commented on Soviet influence in Libya, saying that he did not expect the Soviets to aid Libya if any further confrontation with the Americans is limited to the Mediterranean Sea.

But he said, "if the war spreads widely, then naturally the Soviet Union will not stand by with its hands tied during a war involving a superpower."

"We are friends of the Soviets. There is an agreement for consultations and to coordinate efforts during dangerous conflicts," he said. Col. Qadhafi did not say when the agreement was reached, but many believe it came about during his trip to Moscow last October.

U.S. may launch new attack on Libya; Ronn expels two Libyans, page 2

Modai offers to resign but crisis is far from over

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's finance minister offered on Wednesday to bow to Prime Minister Shimon Peres' demand that he resign, but the minister's party opposed his dismissal.

The right-wing Likud bloc, a partner with Peres' Labour Party in the ruling coalition, said it would leave the government if Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai were forced out.

The decision by Likud, made at a meeting of the party's cabinet ministers, fuelled a three-day crisis threatening Peres' 17-month-old government.

A walkout by the party led by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir would deprive the government of its majority in parliament and would likely lead to early elections.

In an unexpected move, Modai announced at a news conference he was ready to relinquish his post if Peres insisted, claiming that survival of the government was "of paramount importance."

"If the prime minister insists on his dismissal, all of us will submit our resignations at the same time," Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir told reporters after the Likud meeting.

Moshe Arens, a minister without portfolio, said: "We have told Modai that we will not accept his offer of resignation."

The Likud ministers charged that Peres' threat to fire Modai for criticising the government's economic policies violated the joint rule agreement signed by the two rival parties in September 1984.

Modai, who attended the meeting, refused to disclose his next step. "I have heard the advice of my colleagues. By Sunday I will decide what to do," he said, referring to the regular scheduled cabinet meeting.

Modai, speaking at a news conference early in the day, did not say when he would resign but said he would act according to government regulations. Those regulations call for him to submit a letter of resignation to the prime minister. His resignation would take effect 48 hours later.

Under the coalition agreement, Peres and Shamir are due to swap jobs in October for the second half of their joint rule. Peres has been under pressure from Labour ranks to abrogate the agreement before the swap and to call new elections.

Mitterrand to veto some proposed denationalisations

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand said on Wednesday he would refuse to sign government decrees privatising companies nationalised before 1981, raising the prospect of a major constitutional clash with the government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

Mr. Mitterrand's warning at Wednesday's cabinet meeting, made public by his spokesman, was ignored by the government which said it would press ahead with its programme of denationalisation by decree.

Government spokesman Alain Juppe said it would return to the private sector the state-owned Elf Aquitaine oil company, the media group Havas and major banks and insurance companies nationalised after World War II.

These were included in the list for privatisation in addition to industrial companies and banks nationalised by the Socialist government after 1981.

Under the constitution Mr. Mitterrand can refuse to sign decrees, which are issued by the government without full discussion in parliament.

But he cannot refuse to sign laws which have gone through the full legislative route.

Two weeks ago Mr. Mitterrand warned Mr. Chirac publicly he would refuse to sign decrees that watered down job protection laws, and the government sidestepped a clash by announcing it would handle the issue by regular legislation.

This time it appeared that neither side was ready to back down. Mr. Chirac was expected to give his version of the dispute to the National Assembly later on Wednesday in a speech setting out his government's programme.

Woerner: Israel wants peace

TEL AVIV (R) — West German Defence Minister Manfred Woerner said on Wednesday he was convinced Israeli leaders wanted a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. "I go back to my country with the impression that the state of Israel and its government has firmly decided to go further on the way to a peaceful settlement of the questions and problems in this region."

But he cannot refuse to sign laws which have gone through the full legislative route.

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Bonn expels 2 Libyan diplomats

BONN (R) — The West German government announced Wednesday it was expelling two Libyan diplomats for involvement in activities incompatible with their status.

A spokesman told Reuters the expulsion was decided at a weekly cabinet meeting which discussed U.S. demands for West German action against Libya following a bomb attack on a West Berlin discotheque last weekend.

Washington has charged that Tripoli was behind the attack, in which two people were killed and 204 injured, but Bonn has so far said it has no evidence of its own of a Libyan link.

The spokesman declined to identify the two diplomats and could give no other details at present.

Government sources said the West German authorities had no evidence that the two Libyan dip-

lomatics were linked to the Berlin blast but did have information that they were both agents for Tripoli's intelligence service.

They indicated that the decision to expel the two men had been at least partly influenced by a wish to placate the United States, which has shown irritation over Bonn's refusal to adopt sanctions against Libya.

The sources said that if Bonn received cast-iron evidence of Libyan involvement in the Berlin attack the government would adopt further and much tougher retaliatory measures against Tripoli.

There are 12 diplomats ac-

credited to Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) in Bonn. Officials there were unavailable for comment on the government's moves.

The Bonn sources said the government feared Tripoli would retaliate by expelling staff from the West German mission there, which has four accredited diplomats.

The sources said Wednesday's cabinet decision followed a debate between the Interior Ministry, which had demanded the expulsions, and the Foreign Ministry, which was initially cautious and wanted more evidence on the Libyans' activities.

The expulsion effectively meant that Bonn had submitted to U.S. demands that it reduce the number of Libyan embassy staff in West Germany.

After the Berlin blast the Uni-

ted States called on Bonn to take political and economic action against Tripoli, government sources said its chief demand was for a cut in the number of Libyans accredited as diplomats here.

The United States backed up its demand with an intelligence dossier on radio traffic between Tripoli and its mission in East Berlin. U.S. intelligence said the radio reports showed Libya was behind the blast.

Security sources in Bonn said analysis of the U.S. reports indicated that Libya knew in advance of the plans to bomb the "La Belle" discotheque in the early hours of Saturday morning.

However, they said the radio messages produced no concrete evidence that Tripoli itself was involved in planning or carrying out the attack.

Soviet aide meets Qadhafi

MOSCOW (AP) — A high Soviet official has met with Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi in Tripoli, TASS said Wednesday, in the first such contact reported between the two nations since U.S.-Libyan clashes last month.

Konstantin Katushev, head of the Soviet Union's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, handed Col. Qadhafi a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, TASS reported.

The official Soviet News Agency said Katushev was in Libya on a visit, but did not report when he had arrived or exactly when his meeting with Col. Qadhafi took place.

According to the TASS report, Mr. Katushev and Col. Qadhafi discussed questions surrounding a long-term agreement on economic, scientific and trade cooperation signed by Mr. Gorbachev and the Libyan leader when Col. Qadhafi visited Moscow last October.

No further details were given. In the past three years, the Soviets and Libyans have built up trade to around 1 billion roubles (\$1.4 billion) a year, an increase of some 150 per cent over the level of the early 1980s.

It is not clear whether those figures include Soviet arms shipments to Libya, estimated by Western analysts to total more than \$10 billion since 1970.

A U.S. estimate in March said there are some 2,000 Soviet and 1,200 Soviet Bloc military advisers in Libya.

U.S. may launch new attack on Libya

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The United States is considering a new, heavier and more dangerous attack against Libya in retaliation for Saturday's bombing of a West Berlin discotheque, a U.S. television network has said.

CBS News also reported that Libya was urging its European embassies to launch "new terrorist action" and said pressure was building for the Reagan administration to act soon.

It said the administration believed it had public support for a riskier operation than its strike against Libyan patrol boats and a coastal missile site last month in the disputed Gulf of Sirte.

Possible options cited by CBS included strikes at inland guerrilla training camps, which could mean the loss of U.S. planes and pilots. A U.S. soldier and a Turkish woman were killed and 150 people were wounded in the explosion at La Belle, a Berlin discotheque frequented by U.S. servicemen.

"Forty-eight hours after the bombing in West Berlin the Reagan administration had reached a consensus for military retaliation against Libya," CBS said. "But officials are still trying to decide exactly what to do and when."

There was no immediate comment on the report which came from the CBS White House correspondent.

Citing unidentified sources, the correspondent said: "The evidence, most of it from communications intercepts, seems to implicate Libya beyond much doubt."

Intercepts cited by television networks earlier have included purported messages from Libya to its People's Bureau (embassy) in East Berlin, one of them a con-

gratulatory message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Referring to the retaliation options open to Washington, CBS said: "The easy targets are on the coast — the Libyan missile battery already hit during the operation in the Gulf of Sirte, a submarine base, other port facilities and artillery positions."

"More risky — terrorist training camps. Military planners say daylight action inland would probably mean the loss of some pilots and aircraft."

"But the White House believes there is public support as to do many in congress," CBS said.

It quoted Senate majority leader Robert Dole as saying: "If Qadhafi is going to in effect spawn terrorism, tolerate it, export it, then we should deal with it and in my view the sooner the better."

The network reported intelligence sources as saying: "The White House would rather retaliate against Libya at a time of its own choosing. But sources say there is a lot of pressure to act soon, to strike while the consensus is hot."

In Washington, Rozanne Ridgway, assistant secretary of state for Europe and Canada, told a congressional hearing that the United States had been in touch with several governments regarding suspicions that Libyan missions were planning terrorist attacks.

"Where there are indications or reasons to believe that the Libyan People's Bureau is involved in terrorist activities we will call on the host government to take action," she said.

She told the hearing she agreed with U.S. Ambassador Richard Burt in Bonn who said Tuesday there was "very clear evidence of Libyan involvement" in the bomb attack.

Meanwhile Attorney General Edwin Meese said Tuesday the United States is determined to destroy international terrorism even if extradition from other countries and prosecution of foreign nationals who commit acts of terror are needed.

Mr. Meese told the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), pro-Israel lobbying group, that he supports legislation to hold non-Americans responsible for capital crimes they may perpetrate against U.S. citizens on other shores.

"There must be no refuge and no sanctuary for terrorists," he said.

Mr. Meese said that such legislation, together with appropriate extradition and coordination agreements with friendly countries, are essential tools to fight world terror.

"It is imperative that we work together with all countries," he asserted. "Our preparation... includes laying the groundwork for coordinated action between governments. This administration has made extensive contacts with government leaders and law enforcement officials around the world to improve cooperation on a two-way basis with other countries."

"It is matter that I have also had the privilege of stressing in my own conversations with government leaders and law enforcement officials throughout the world."

Mr. Meese recently returned from a visit to South Asia and Europe.

Italy on alert after Lebanese threats

ROME (R) — Italy's security services have gone on major alert to face a threat from a Lebanese group known to have links with local urban guerrillas, intelligence sources said Wednesday.

They said the authorities were deeply concerned by the threat made in a statement delivered earlier this week to the Beirut office of the Italian National News Agency ANSA demanding the release of two Lebanese jailed in Italy.

The group for the Defence of Arab Political Prisoners in Europe, which last month claimed responsibility for bomb attacks in France, said: "We will tolerate no delay... Italian streets will witness tragedies like those in France."

The sources said this message was being taken much more seriously than previous vague threats to strike at Italian targets because the group was linked with the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Front (FARL) which had contacts with Italy's own Red Brigades urban guerrillas.

FARL was believed to have collaborated with the Red Brigades in the February 1984 assassination in Rome of American Senator Edward Brooke, director-general of the Multinational Force and Observers which was charged with overseeing the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt.

The sources said the alert was also connected with the general tension in the Mediterranean following last month's U.S.-Libyan clashes in the Gulf of Sirte and bomb attacks against an American airliner on a flight from Rome to Athens and a West Berlin discotheque last week.

Security services were worried because of the local support that FARL might obtain from urban guerrillas.

This meant that a terrorist attack against targets in Italy, including American tourists or one of the many U.S. military installations in this country, might even be launched without infiltrating foreign guerrillas into Italy.

They said the latest alert mainly affected further strengthening of frontier controls and intelligence gathering rather than a visible presence of armed police at airfields, or other possible terrorist targets after the Gulf of Sirte clashes.

They said officials felt a further increase in police patrols in city streets could be counterproductive.

Reagan makes formal request to Congress on Saudi arms sale

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan has formally asked Congress to approve the controversial sale to Saudi Arabia of sophisticated missiles worth \$354 million, the Defence Department said.

The White House informally told lawmakers of the planned sale of anti-aircraft and anti-air missiles 20 days ago. With the formal announcement, Congress has 30 days to approve or veto it.

More than 60 Democratic and Republican members of the 100-member Senate earlier told Mr. Reagan in a letter they opposed the sale because the missiles could be used against Israel and because the Saudis had provided aid to radical Arab states.

But the administration argued Tuesday that the missiles would contribute to overall Middle East security "and will serve to deter further expansion of the Iran-Iraq war in the Arabian Gulf."

"The sale of this equipment and support will not affect the basic military balance in the region," the Pentagon said.

This sale is consistent with the stated U.S. policy of assisting fri-

endly nations to provide for their own defence by allowing the transfer of reasonable amounts of defence articles and services.

Administration officials have said privately that Saudi Arabia and other Arab states which have aided Iraq in the war are nervous about recent advances by Iran against Iraq.

The arms package includes 1,696 Aim-Sidewinder air-to-air missiles at a cost of \$158 million, 100 air-launched Harpoon anti-

ship missiles for \$107 million and 200 shoulder-launched Stinger anti-aircraft missile systems with 600 rounds for \$69 million.

The Harpoon is made by McDonnell Douglas, the Sidewinder by Ford Aerospace and Communications and Raytheon, and the Stinger by General Dynamics.

The Sidewinders, the Pentagon added, would allow the Royal Saudi Air Force to protect oil fields and vital oil shipping lanes against advanced aircraft.

The pro-Israel lobby in Washington has dropped its opposition to a proposed arms deal between the United States and

Saudi Arabia, a top lobbyist said Tuesday.

"We looked at the Saudi arms sale as it is constituted now... and made a decision that this was not worth a fight," said Tom Dine, head of the American-Israel Public Action Committee. In an interview from Washington with Israeli Television.

Opponents have said they have enough votes to stop the sale, but apparently not enough to override Mr. Reagan if he vetoes their move.

The Israeli government has not taken a public stand against the proposed sale.

Pakistan is also to receive 2,030 improved anti-tank (TOW) missiles, the Defence Department reported Tuesday. The Pentagon said Congress has been notified of the proposed letter of offer to the government of Pakistan for these shoulder-fired missiles.

The estimated cost of the sale is \$20 million.

Pakistan, it said, will use these anti-tank missiles to "upgrade its overall force mobilisation plan and enhance its basic defence capability."

French delegation arrives in Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — A French delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Andre Ross arrived in Tehran Wednesday for a three-day visit, in an apparent warning of relations between the two countries after a series of expulsions two months ago.

Tehran Radio said the delegation would study "existing problems in bilateral relations... they will have meetings with political and economic officials."

Relations are strained by France's financial and military support for Iraq in the Gulf war, Paris-based Iranian opposition guerrilla groups and a dispute about French repayment to Iraq of a billion-dollar loan.

France expelled four Iranian students in February after a series

of bomb attacks in Paris. Soon afterwards, Iran expelled two French engineers, a doctor and a journalist, accusing them of spying. A French embassy attaché was also detained for several hours with the diplomatic bag.

The French delegation included Marc Bonnefous, head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East and Africa Department, who was denied a visa to Iran last month. An Iranian Foreign Ministry official then said it was because he wanted to discuss French hostages being held by pro-Iranian militiamen in Lebanon.

Eight Frenchmen have been kidnapped in Lebanon this year and last, and their captors say they have killed one of them.

Asked if Iranian officials would discuss the hostages with Mr. Ross, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters: "Talks will be on bilateral subjects."

Iranian officials have said that while Iran has nothing to do with the hostage issue, they would do anything they could to help French sources say.

Among conditions for release of the Frenchmen, the kidnappers have demanded that France scale down support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Ross would meet Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and other ministry officials, but that no other meetings had been arranged yet.

Sudanese election candidate shot dead

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Masked gunmen dragged from a bus and fatally shot a candidate for the constituent assembly currently being elected to restore democracy in Sudan, travellers from the south said Wednesday.

They said Joseph Kebulu of the Sudan African People's Congress was travelling from Nimule to Juba, the main southern town 1,185 kilometres south of Khartoum, when the gunmen stopped the bus he was on last Saturday.

The assailants boarded the bus, pulled out Kebulu and shot him from the side of the road, the travellers said. The bus was sent on its way.

The shooting occurred on the fourth day of balloting in the 12-day elections to choose an assembly to write a constitution, choose a cabinet and appoint a state council to end 17 years of military rule in Sudan.

Voting was postponed indefinitely in more than half the south's 68 precincts because of a

3-year-old rebellion seeking southern autonomy as well as economic, political and social change.

Al Maidan, the Communist Party's newspaper in Khartoum, first reported Kebulu's death and indicated his killers were linked with the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

Well-informed southerners in the capital said, however, the killing more likely resulted from a partisan political squabble than from rebel activity.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 7711/14		TODAY'S EVENTS		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT		EMERGENCIES	
PROGRAMME ONE 16:30 Koran 16:30 Children programme 17:45 George 18:15 Paul Daniel Show 18:45 Local contest programme 19:50 Tomorrow's programme 20:00 News in Arabic 20:45 Arabic series 21:00 Arabic Film 23:00 News Summary in Arabic 23:10 Film Continued		EXHIBITIONS Sculptures exhibition at the French Cultural Centre starting Friday (until April 11). Exhibition of bronze statues by Layla Haddad at her open studio in Al-Rabiah suburb, near Al-Rabiah pharmacy (until April 11). An art exhibition entitled: "Jordan 86" at the French Cultural Centre (until April 17). A photo exhibition of the Cordoba Mosque at the Spanish Culture Centre (until April 12).		<i>This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-2, where it should always be verified.</i>		Amman governorate 891228 Amman civil defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Unit 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Qawasmeh 770733 Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 150 First aid 630541 Blood bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 622093 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 896399 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Municipal waste complaints 771253/8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 5333060	
PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Felix Nadar 19:00 News in French 19:30 Varieties 20:00 News in Hebrew 20:30 Don't Wait Up 21:10 Return to Eden 22:00 News in English 22:30 Feature Film: The Promise		SERVICE CLUBS Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club, Jabbal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410		ARRIVALS 10:35 Kuwait (RJ) 10:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:45 Muscat, Dubai (RJ) 10:45 Agaba (RJ) 10:45 Cairo (RJ) 10:45 Jeddah (RJ) 10:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 11:00 Kuwait (RJ) 11:00 Kuwait (RJ) 11:00 Istanbul, Ankara (TK) 11:00 Muscat, Dubai, Bahrain, Larnaca (GF) 16:10 Riyadh (SV) 17:30 Larnaca (RJ) 18:30 Cairo (RJ) 18:30 London, Belgrade (RJ) 18:30 Athens (RJ) 18:30 Amsterdam, Larnaca (KLM) 19:10 Frankfurt (LH) 20:00 Zurich, Larnaca (SR) 21:00 Baghdad (IA) 21:00 Cairo (RJ) 21:00 London, Baghdad (BA) 21:00 Cairo (RJ) 21:05 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (RJ) 21:25 Baghdad (RJ)		MARITIME TRAFFIC Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port: — Ostfriesla — Magesbee — Cilvernia — Almazra — Baran De Manu — Boris Polevoy Amn. Kavar and Soss Company, Tel. 622324-9 at your service.	
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RADIO JORDAN 88.5 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9560 KHz. SW 07:00 News 07:30 Classical Record Review 07:45 Financial News 07:55 Reflections 08:00 World News 08:05 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Peetles Choice 08:45 The World Today 09:00 News 09:30 Nature Notebook 09:45 The Farming World 10:00 World News 10:05 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 The Classic Albums 10:45 Network UK 11:00 World News 11:05 Reflections 11:15 Country Style 11:30 John Peel 12:00 World News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 12:45 Monitor 13:00 News Summary: 13:05 World News 13:10 The World Today 13:15 24 Hours: News Summary 13:45 World News 14:00 News Summary 14:15 24 Hours: News Summary 14:45 World News 15:00 News Summary 15:15 Top Twenty 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:05 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Network UK 16:45 Flinders and News 17:00 News Summary: Outlook 17:45 Jazz from Europe 18:00 Radio Newsworld 18:15 The Pleasure of Your 19:00 World News 19:05 Commentary 19:15 World News 19:20 The World Today 20:00 News 20:05 A Letter from England 20:15 Meridian 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 News Summary 21:30 Discovery 22:00 News Summary: Outlook 22:15 Here's the World 22:30 Stock Market Report 22:45 Jazz from Europe 23:00 World News 23:05 24 Hours: News Summary 23:30 Business Matters 24:00 News Summary 24:05 In the Mezzanine 24:15 A Jolly Good Show 24:30 World News 24:35 The World Today 24:45 A Letter from England 24:55 Financial News 25:00 Reflections 25:05 Sports Round-up 25:30 World News: Commentary 25:35 Meridian 25:45 Nature Notebook		VIDEO A video presentation of A Night at the Opera at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre. "Musique" at 4:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.		WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be partly cloudy, with scattered showers associated with thunder. North-westerly moderate winds will be freshening at times. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with chances for scattered showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.		HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Jabbal Amman Maternity 642362 Malham, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shamsiah 666134 Shamsiah Hospital 645845/6 Al-Munster Hospital 666272/9 The Islamic, Abbad 666217/37 Al-Am, Abbad 661646 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777103/3 Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775117/16 Army, Marfa 891611/15	
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet names IDECO board

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a costume festival which will open in Baghdad on April 23, according to a cabinet announcement Wednesday. Several Arab countries will take part in the week-long festival. The cabinet also announced the appointment of government representatives at the Irbid District Electricity Company's (IDECO) board of directors. These are the governor of Irbid, the directors of the planning and financial departments at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), the director of the energy sector at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the IDECO director general and the director of the Ministry of Industry's office in Irbid Governorate.

Soviet writers arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Soviet writers federation arrived here Wednesday on a week-long visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Jordanian Writers Association. During the visit the delegation will meet with a number of Jordanian writers and intellectuals and will also visit a number of historical and tourist sites.

Academy to hold meeting April 23

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait Foundation) will hold its fifth annual meeting in Amman on April 23. The meeting will review a general report by the foundation's secretariat and another report on various Islamic books, publications and manuscripts collected by the foundation. In

Nsour, envoy discuss training at TCC

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour Wednesday received French Ambassador in Amman Patrick Leclercq for discussions on the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) training requirements for the next 10 years.

Syrian governors to visit Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — The governors of Dara'a and Al Suwaydaa' in Syria are due in Irbid on Saturday for a three-day official visit to Irbid Governorate. Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin said that the two sides will discuss means of strengthening cooperation and facilitating the movement of citizens between Jordan and Syria. The delegation will also visit a number of archaeological sites in the governorate.

Joint business council to convene in May

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Egyptian joint business council will hold its first meeting here during May to discuss obstacles impeding the freedom of trade between the two countries. This was decided on Wednesday during the first meeting of the Jordanian businessmen's society.

Jordan invited to calligraphy contest

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Culture and Arts has received an invitation to take part in the first international contest of Islamic calligraphy which will be held in Istanbul. The contest is being organised by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) International Committee for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage.

Kuwaiti delegation visits Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — A Kuwaiti delegation led by Under Secretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education Rashid Al Hamad Wednesday paid a visit to the Department of Education in Irbid where they were briefed by the department officials on education methods employed in schools which come under the department. They later visited Yarmouk University and watched a documentary on the university.

Local artist shows American public a wider picture of Jordanian culture

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A Jordanian lawyer turned artist whose works have earned him acclaim at home is now in the United States at the invitation of a group of Jordanian students.

Faiouk Lambaz was invited by members of the Jordan Students' Club to visit the United States and exhibit his works at the Jordanian embassy in Washington. Jordanian art critic Meg Abu Hamdan described Lambaz's paintings as "impressionistic pieces full of light and charm." He works with the little-used medium of wax-rich crayons. His painting style, which he devised himself, enables him to manipulate subtle shades. Then, as Mrs. Abu Hamdan described it, he "slices through to achieve a hazy effect that blurs all outlines while blending and bolding the whole image together."

Faiouk Lambaz is currently in charge of public relations design for Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. For the excellence of his work both in painting and design, he was awarded the Jordanian Kawakab decoration.

Born in Amman in 1942, Lambaz earned a degree in law from Damascus University but turned to art as a career in the early 1960's. He exhibits regularly in Jordan and has participated in group exhibitions in the Gulf area, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Beijing, China.

Of the Beijing trip, the artist recalls, "It's another feeling, another world, another type of people. What you feel around you is a 6,000-year-old culture which hasn't changed until now." When asked to contrast his visit to China to his frequent tours of the United States, Mr. Lambaz replied: "It's another side of the coin — a new world, brand new, which has another effect on me. I appreciate both the old and the new."

But the artist emphasised, "I am in love with Jordan, its nature, its surroundings and the people there. Something attracts me to such subjects." He explained he

was eager to accept the invitation of the Jordan Students' Club to visit the United States because "I think it will give Americans a wider picture about our life, culture and history. I think a great many Americans don't know anything about today's Jordan."

According to Mr. Hassan Abu Khajil, vice president of the Jordan Students' Club, the three-day exhibition will be a valuable tool to open the eyes of American art lovers to the hidden colour and richness of Jordanian life.

"We welcome American students to join our club," Mr. Abu Khajil said. "We have invited many American professors and students as well as Jordanian families and students to come see the paintings."

Mr. Sahel Majali, president of the Jordan Students' Club, reported that prints of the works on exhibit were being offered for sale to aid the organisation. Mr. Majali, who graduated last December from George Washington University, holds two master's degrees in engineering. He is returning to Jordan soon to begin his career.

The young engineer is optimistic that the exhibition will achieve its aim — "to let Americans know about our country." He emphasised that the student club is not supported by any political party. "It is cultural and social — we do help some of our students who have financial problems," he



SPANISH SPEAKER: Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmed Al Lawzi (right) Wednesday receives visiting Spanish Upper House of Parliament (Senado) speaker, Mr. Jose Frederico Cavajal. Mr. Cavajal is leading a 5-member par-

liamentary delegation in a week-long visit during which they are expected to meet with Jordanian parliamentarians and officials and tour Jordan's historical and archaeological sites (Petra photo)

GUVS organises fund raising campaign for cancer centre

AMMAN (Petra) — More than 300 Jordanian volunteers will take part in a three-day "knock-on-the-door" fund raising campaign, organised by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), and due to start on April 30, according to an announcement made on Wednesday by an enlarged committee entrusted with preparing for the campaign.

According to the statement, the campaign aims at raising funds to cover the initial expenses of Al Amal Centre for the treatment of cancer, a GUVS-sponsored project expected to cost JD 7 million.

The national team in charge of establishing the centre hopes to raise some JD 400,000 to bring the total amount of funds collected by GUVS to JD 1 million. By the end of 1986, the statement said, until now, the team has managed to collect JD 600,000 with support from GUVS.

Three three-day "knock-on-the-door" campaign, which started last year, will be conducted by volunteers wearing special T-shirts with the campaign's sign. Special boxes will also be distributed throughout the Kingdom in order to facilitate the collection of funds, the statement said.

Special posters will also be distributed and posted in public areas to attract public attention. The three-day campaign will start from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and volunteers collecting the funds will be given appreciation certificates from GUVS.

Last year's "knock-on-the-door" campaign collected JD 250,000 over three days. In the enlarged committee meeting on Wednesday, which was chaired by GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib, participants formed a central committee to supervise the campaign.

Majali requests ministries to review education policies

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali Wednesday issued a circular to all government ministries instructing them to make a general revision of agreements drawn up with other countries which allow Jordanian students to continue their higher studies abroad. The circular said there should also be a revision of the type of courses students on scholarships in Jordanian universities and higher institutions

are taking.

The instructions were issued in view of a comprehensive study which is being conducted by the Ministry of Higher Education on manpower requirements for the new five-year development plan, the circular said.

The circular said that the study will help school leavers decide on the courses they will take to meet the country's manpower and labour requirements.

Police arrest gang for forging permits, official documents

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-member gang has been apprehended by Amman police for illegally issuing work permits and other government documents, according to a report in the Arabic daily newspaper Al Ra'i.

The report said that the four were caught red-handed in their apartment in possession of keys and official papers and documents including work permits, passports and birth certificates. Police sources, quoted by the report, said that the Amman Police Department put the gang under close scrutiny after receiving reports that they were involved in forgery. Members of the gang were identified only as DH, KH 25 years, Z-E 28, T. Z 25 and G. Y 38.

The police first arrested DH,

KH and Z. E who used to provide foreign workers with work permits, the report said. During investigations, DH, KH claimed that he had only known Z. E for a short time and that the latter had introduced himself as the director of the Amman Labour Office.

The report said that both suspects called at a printing press in Salt where they requested the owner to print 2,000 work permits for JD 50. The press' director, when questioned by the police, said that he asked the two men to show him a written order for printing the permits but Z. E convinced him that he would show him the order the next day. The two men later confessed that they had two partners, T. Z and G. Y.

IBS students end training camp

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman International Baccalaureate School (IBS) today ends a week-long camp held at Aalouk in the Zarqa region. Altogether 42 IBS students took part in the camp and were given training in a variety of activities.

Involved in training the students were several army officers and policemen and, according to camp supervisors, the training was quite an experience for the pupils who spent a week camping

in tents away from their parents.

Scout training, Tae Kwan Do martial art techniques, mountain-climbing and using maps and compasses on daily trips were among the activities for the youngsters during the camp. One of the supervisors said in an interview with Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper, The camp, she said, was part of a programme that also entails participation in a community service project.

Murphy arrives in Cairo

(Continued from page 1)

Security Council resolutions. An Israeli official said on Wednesday Mr. Murphy was expected to try to speed up efforts to settle an Israeli-Egyptian border dispute along the Red Sea that has strained relations between the two countries.

U.S. Under-Secretary of State Michael Armacost was to arrive in Israel later in the day for talks focusing on international cooperation in developing countries, the official told Reuters.

Israel and Egypt have been unable to agree on how to word their presentation of the Taba beach dispute to a third-party arbitrator.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres asked the United States during a trip to Washington last week to increase its role in settling the dispute, Israeli officials said.

Mr. Murphy also explored the possibility of a visit to Israel by Secretary of State George Shultz, diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters said.

In Cairo, President Mubarak told reporters he would be discussing Middle East peace with Mr. Murphy but did not know of a new U.S. initiative.

The president was speaking after a one-hour meeting with Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark, who said the central Middle East issue was "peace involving settlement of the Palestinian question."

Mr. Clark said the major initiatives had to come from the region and pressure had to be maintained to bring the parties together.

Meanwhile, Palestinian leaders on Wednesday welcomed a Peres proposal for "self-rule" in the occupied Gaza Strip, but right-wing members of his government rejected the plan.

Peres told a national convention of his Labour Party on Tuesday night that "self-rule" for Gaza was a way of breathing fresh life into

the stalemated peace process. He said it could eventually be extended to the occupied West Bank.

Peres also said Israel recognises the Palestinians "as a people."

Moshe Arens, a senior member of the right-wing Likud bloc warned that Peres' programme was likely to encourage Palestinian attacks against Israel.

Arens, a minister-without-portfolio, criticised the idea of recognising the Palestinian people, asking "since when does one makes declarations of recognition of peoples?... a state recognises a state, but where does one recognise a people?"

Hanna Siniora, editor of the Al Fajr daily in East Jerusalem, told Israeli army radio: "This is a positive sign on the part of the Israeli government and Mr. Peres especially."

But he said if Peres "recognises the right of the Palestinian people, it means he also has to recognise the right of national self-determination."

The radio quoted him as saying Peres would have to accept direct negotiations with the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, and direct elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel refuses to negotiate with the PLO.

Said Kanaan, a leading businessman and politician in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, told the radio Peres' statement was a positive step but not enough. He called for direct negotiations between Israel and Palestinian representatives.

He also pointed out that Peres reflected the policy of the Labour Party, while his Likud coalition partners and other right-wing parties supported Israeli annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It was not clear how Peres' "self-rule" proposal would be transplanted into practice.

"We are prepared to give civil self-rule to all the territories, or to a part of them like Gaza, for example, as a start," said Peres.

Team attending IPU conference meets Arab, African delegations

Talhouni calls on parliamentarians to cooperate in countering racial discrimination, oppression

MEXICO CITY (Petra) — The leader of the Jordanian delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference in Mexico City, Mr. Bahjat Al Talhouni, has called on African and Arab parliamentarians to cooperate in endeavours designed to thwart the plans of "racist regimes in South Africa and Israel."

He said that Arab parliamentarians do not see any difference between the two regimes in terms of their racial discrimination policies and other aggressive measures against the local inhabitants in Africa and Palestine.

Mr. Talhouni, who is member of the Jordanian Upper House of Parliament, was addressing a joint meeting of parliamentary delegations from Arab and African countries which are currently taking part in the IPU conference.

Mr. Talhouni referred to last month's meeting held by Arab and African parliamentarians in Rabat which, he said, endorsed resolutions and recommendations paving the way for further cooperation between the two sides to help serve African and Arab causes.

Another member of the Jordanian delegation, Mr. Walid Salah, also addressed the meeting and restated Jordan's strong condemnation of all forms of international terrorism, Jordan, he said, wishes to cooperate with all peace-loving nations to counter terrorism.

But, he continued, any efforts to deal with terrorism should first tackle the root causes of terrorism which are normally the result of oppression, occupation, aggression, hegemony or domination of peoples or nations. Any struggles aimed at liberation and self-determination can by no means be considered as acts of terrorism but rather the sacred right of all nations under the yoke of colonialism and occupation, Mr. Salah added.

He went on to say that liberation movements and just struggles, such as those supported by United Nations Charter, should not be regarded as acts of terrorism. He said that the Palestinians and the Lebanese have the right to pursue the struggle to liberate their occupied lands and have the right to fight for their freedom and their legitimate rights.

Israeli terrorism

Terrorism in the Middle East started when the Zionist movement launched attacks on the King David Hotel, killing many British civilian and military officers and continued when the Israelis later conducted acts of terror against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, Mr. Salah said. Mr. Salah cited a num-

ber of terrorist actions carried out by the Israelis against Arab countries, including the Israeli air raids on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and the recent raid on Tunis. He also discussed the violations of human rights and repressive measures against the Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule.

In his speech, Mr. Salah also referred to the ever present danger of nuclear arms and programmes for using space as a military arena and he appealed to world parliamentarians to help end the arms race and threats to humanity.

A third delegate, Dr. Khalil Al Salem, made a speech refuting statements made by the Israeli delegate to the conference's political committee. He said that the statements were full of "falshoods and contradictions" and warned that such statements "could serve as a prelude to yet another Israeli aggression on Arab states, including Jordan."

Israel has been obstructing any solution to the Middle East conflict by imposing pre-conditions for any negotiations, he said. Israel has also been confiscating Arab lands, building settlements and has annexed Arab Jerusalem in defiance of United Nations resolutions. Dr. Salem pointed out, He said that Israel's continued occupation of Arab land will remain a per-

manent source of danger for the whole world.

IPU endorses Arab resolution

Earlier in the APU conference, the IPU endorsed an Arab resolution on the Palestine issue and the Iran-Iraq war.

Endorsement of the resolution was by an overwhelming majority and followed a speech by Mr. Talhouni who submitted the resolution on behalf of the Arab group attending the conference.

In his address, Mr. Talhouni spoke in detail about the dangers and threats to world peace and security resulting from the continued Israeli occupation of Arab land. He also discussed Israel's policies of building settlements on confiscated Arab land and the eviction of Arab inhabitants from their property and homes. Mr. Talhouni said that Israel was pursuing plans to consolidate its hold on Arab land occupied in 1967, including the whole of Palestine and parts of Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.

The Senate member went on to say that Iran has been launching acts of aggression on Iraq over the past six years and has rejected all peace bids, and the implementation of United Nations resolutions to end the conflict by peaceful means. He said Iran has most recently launched attacks on southern and northern Iraq and as a result it occupied the Fao Peninsula in the south and a part of Iraqi territory in the north. This war is meaningless and causes destruction and bloodshed as well as sapping of the resources of both Iran and Iraq, he added.

Mr. Talhouni, who is member of the Jordanian Upper House of Parliament, was addressing a joint meeting of parliamentary delegations from Arab and African countries which are currently taking part in the IPU conference.

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Prominent banker due Friday

AMMAN — Mr. Michael Sandberg, C.B.E., chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the 14th largest bank in the world, of which the British Bank of the Middle East is a wholly owned subsidiary, will be arriving in Jordan on Friday April 11 for a two-day visit.

Mr. Sandberg joined the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in 1949 and has served in Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong. He was appointed chairman in 1977, and is also chairman of the British Bank of the Middle East, which commenced operations in Jordan in 1949 and now has five branches in Jordan.

In addition to his other appointments and public positions, Mr. Sandberg is a member of the Executive Council of Hong Kong, a Justice of the Peace, the treasurer of the University of Hong Kong and vice-president of the Institute of Bankers. He was named Banker of the Year in 1982.

Mr. Sandberg was awarded the C.B.E. in the Queen's birthday honours list in June 1982. In 1984 he received an honorary doctorate, of law from the University of Hong Kong. Hongkong bank new headquarters: a model architectural masterpiece, page 5.

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ACCEPTANCE OF CONDOLENCES

The Majaj family is back from the United States and accepts condolences on the death of

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Extremism shouldn't win

AN alarming wave of extremism swept the globe during the past week. From Tokyo and the Punjab to Belfast and West Berlin, violence struck to claim more lives and damage to property and morale throughout the world. Even the sky was not spared from horror when a bomb exploded in a TWA airliner while flying at a 15,000-foot altitude. And although this incident was not the first of its kind it highlighted the perilous state of affairs in which the world and its people have entered in a slow build-up of extremism everywhere.

Whichever way one may look at this dangerous phenomenon, it is clear that we are yet to hear the last word from extremism and extremists. Last week's attacks could only signal a further, even stronger, sweep of violence which could change for ever our way of life and thinking as human beings.

Striking as they did in a world beset with the threats inherent in the global arms race and riddled with tottering economies, poverty and famine, the extremists could not have chosen a more opportune time to remind the international community of the dangers that lurk around the corner, ready to pounce, if adequate solutions are not found for international political problems.

Of course there could not be a universal approach to stem the wave of extremism and violence since each incident has its own roots, whether in frustration at being denied basic rights and freedom, or in ideological differences, conflicting interests, state oppression, not to mention violence for violence sake.

We feel that it is high time for world leaders, individually and collectively, to reexamine and reassess their own record and policies and ask themselves: "Am I, or are we, as the decision-makers and leaders of the world doing enough to counter the threat of extremism in order to make the world a safer place to live in?"

The answers could not be easy, nor are there ready-made solutions for our troubles. Take the American-led "fight against terrorism" as a study case. The legality of such a "fight," as translated in a legislative bill, was questioned by the U.S. lawmakers themselves, while Washington's allies across the Atlantic have always been reluctant to join in with the Americans in such projects.

Leaving aside the moral questions related to states fighting terrorism for a moment, it all boils down to one thing: The complex aspects of an all-out war against extremism — replying in the same language of violence — are too deep to produce any far-reaching, long-term solution to extremism, whether in the Far East, the Middle East, Africa or Europe. After all, we are living in a civilised world where the most obvious answers need not necessarily be the right ones. But a critical and objective self-review of the policies adopted by various governments and regimes could go a long way in helping set world priorities.

Paramount among these priorities is the right of every individual, be it in El Salvador, Palestine, or Malaysia, to live in freedom and dignity and be the master of himself to decide what course his future generations should take. Once the world leaders are ready to accept this concept as the basic approach to solving the political puzzles and problems of the globe, and are all prepared to work with each other on the basis of respect for this concept, a major part of the sweeping wave of extremism would subside.

As to that part of the world where "violence for the sake of violence" prevails, it is only natural that the elements that distinguish it from the rest of today's society would be pronounced once political issues are put in their right perspective. That would make it easier for the world to launch a full-fledged battle against those who perpetuate violence for the sake of violence.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: World peace and superpowers

SINCE the end of the Second World War, the international community has not faced a gloomy prospect and a life of terror as it is facing at this present time. There is so much terror and tension throughout the globe caused by the same forces and same powers that bring about their keenness on maintaining world peace and stability. Our world has had a glimpse of peace and stability following the signing of the American-Soviet agreement to ban nuclear tests, and it was hoped that this agreement would mark the beginning of an end to all forms of nuclear threat and war. But with the detonation by the United States of an underground nuclear device three weeks ago, and reports about further American preparations for another test, the world has regressed to a state of terror and fear. The U.S.-Soviet agreement and the short-lived improvement in American-Chinese relations gave the world some optimism which soon ended when the Americans resorted to the gun boat diplomacy, blackmail, hijacking of planes and other forms of threat to world peace. The world is now holding its breath and bracing itself for what is worse, as a result of these policies. Any talks about finding means of ending international terrorism and re-instating world peace can have no meaning at all unless major world powers undertake the task of restoring real peace and tranquility to this world.

Al Dustour: U.S. knows the real path to peace

THE Arabs have, over the years, experienced a bitter fact that the United States can not play the role of a neutral mediator in the Middle East conflict. All previous American initiatives were confronted with Israel's intransigence and failed. At the same time, Washington continued to advocate Israel's views which reject a real and just peace. Therefore any new initiative, if based on the same principles, is bound to fail. An announcement by U.S. Vice President George Bush that Washington will soon embark on a new peace initiative can never revive hope and optimism in the hearts of the Arab masses who have had sufficient experience with American initiatives. Unless there is a drastic change in the American stand vis-a-vis the Middle East question and unless there is a realistic idea with which to start the projected American peace initiative, all U.S. efforts are bound to be doomed. It goes without saying that peace in our area requires certain conditions which Washington is familiar with and which can be met if the U.S. is indeed interested in a just solution.

Sawt Al Shaab: Time for action

THE Inter-Parliamentary Union conference currently being held in Mexico City has a full agenda to discuss and many of the topics concern the war-plagued regions of the world. Parliamentarians from around the world are confronting numerous challenges represented in the different conflicts that have been troubling the inhabitants of this globe. The Arabs have just clinched a strong support for their just causes from the conference which voiced backing for every peaceful effort to end the Middle East conflict and the Gulf war. But this is not a novelty because our just causes have had the support of the United Nations on several occasions and won backing from various world organisations. The Arabs were supported world-wide in their political endeavours to regain their rights and their usurped property; and the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and Palestine as well as Iranian aggression on Iraq have all been condemned by the world community. What remains to be done now is practical action and real steps towards ending the aggression and the occupation.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Superpower politics and the Middle East

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — The view from America looks cloudy these days. Words are being spoken by the president and politicians, yet no one knows exactly what they mean. Our president has been thundering against Communism in Central America, yet relations between the United States and the Soviet Union have been steadily improving.

How do we know this? Ordinary citizens sense it from the amazingly positive portrayals of the Soviet Union one can see on American television. We have three great national television channels. One was always considered a little to the left, another a little to the right, and the third in the centre. Yet now all three are giving TV viewers rather sympathetic pictures of life in the Soviet Union.

Someone might object and

say that TV is privately owned in the U.S., so one cannot automatically assume that a warmer tone in TV means a similar warmer tone in diplomatic relations. But in fact while the media are often critical of presidents, they never go too far away from official views on important matters, especially in foreign policy.

Indeed, there are grounds for arguing that President Reagan's tough position on "Nicaraguan Communism" is partly designed to hide the fact that he is at present beginning a promising new relationship with the Soviet Union. Gorbachev and Reagan are definitely in significant communication with each other.

Reagan needs a victory against the left in order to appease his own powerful right wing. The least dangerous place for such a victory is Nicaragua. In

fact, he may need a small victory in Nicaragua in order to make a "deal" with the Soviets on Afghanistan. There already have been many rumours in the U.S. about a deal between Washington and Moscow that would involve both Nicaragua and Afghanistan. The U.S. does not want another Vietnam in Central America, and the Soviets are weary of the never-ending fighting in that rugged country.

Growing Soviet-American understanding does have major implications for the Middle East, though it is hard to say exactly what these are. One area where the implications were clearer was South Yemen. There the United States did nothing to take advantage of a split in the Yemeni ruling group. Eventually the rebels won, the Soviets resumed their former role,

and Yemen has slipped out of the news.

But when one goes north from Yemen, then the situation becomes vastly more complicated. One could imagine Soviet-American understanding taking the form of some broad conference to resolve the Palestinian issue. But conferences can go on for months, years, even longer. They then become illusions designed to hide unpleasant realities.

Nevertheless there are good reasons for thinking that for some time now the United States and the Soviet union have agreed, even only in the most general way, that the rivalry between them must not be allowed to unsettle the Middle East even further.

The United States wants peace in the Middle East mai-

nly because of oil. The Soviet Union wants peace in the Middle East because it is disturbed over a rapidly growing Muslim population in its own country which is ruled with an iron hand by Russians. The United States too is disturbed over Islam because militant Islamic revolution could possibly endanger the supply of oil from the Middle East.

So if one looks carefully one can see that fear of Islam lies at the root of both Soviet and American reluctance to see more trouble in the Middle East and their tacit agreement to co-operate to make certain further trouble does not arise.

In the early 1960's Washington and Moscow agreed that revolutionary Maoism flowing out of China was a common threat to both of them. Now without saying so explicitly, both agree that rev-

olutionary Islam is equally a common threat. As we know, China changed and now has close ties with the U.S. and is improving its ties with the Soviet Union.

In the end, China changed not because of anything which Washington or Moscow did, but because of internal changes within China itself. China shifted from internal war to internal peace. In the splendid history of Arab civilisation, we have seen similar shifts. The early days of the conquests were soon followed by the most peaceful and creative empires of Middle Eastern history.

Nevertheless, improved relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the early 1970's helped to make China's transition easier. Perhaps the same thing could happen now in the Middle East.

Tea and sympathy in China's parliament

By Stephen Nisbet
Reuter

PEKING — At scores of tables laid out near one of the world's biggest rooms, weary members of China's parliament have no food and a choice of beverages — sugary tea or plain hot water.

But the austerity falls outside the huge Great Hall of the People, where mainly West German and Japanese limousines wait alongside buses to whisk members back to their hotels.

Attending their annual three-week session, about 2,700 deputies are savouring their moment at the centre of national news media attention.

Clad in Mao suit, army uniform, sober Western dress or the vivid costume and riding boots of an ethnic minority group, they wander the high-ceilinged corridors or pose for souvenir photos on sweeping marble staircases beside giant vases.

Usually dismissed as a rubber stamp by Western news media, the National People's Congress (NPC) is presented by officials as a reformed body, whose indirectly elected members want to hear truth, not propaganda, on legislative proposals, ranging from foreign investment laws to plans for identity cards.

"In the old days, people would say only good things — now there is real discussion of problems," said NPC protocol chief Zhang Xiaobu.

He cited Premier Zhou Ziyang's speech on the new five-year plan in which optimistic forecasts were punctuated with warnings about corruption, irrational investments and uncontrolled trade deficits.

Summaries of speeches issued

by the government press agency also reveals criticism by deputies. One wanted cigarette and liquor taxes raised to finance extra spending on education, others demanded a halving of civil servants to combat waste.

But the general tone of debate was best reflected in the China daily account, which said: "members agreed that they appreciated the government's determination to carry on... the economic reform."

Zhang said the final session of the congress on April 12 should not be missed as deputies massed in the 10,000-seat auditorium with a luminous red star in the ceiling raised their hands in assent to send the five-year plan on its way.

No ordinary citizens will be allowed to attend this or any other sessions of the NPC and a line of police keeps casual onlookers far back on the vast Tiananmen Square.

But protocol chief Zhang said the NPC had friendly links with many foreign assemblies, saying its standing committee would play host later this month to a delegation from the European Parliament.

The European Parliament is based in Strasbourg, which Britain's Guardian newspaper once dubbed as the world capital of gluttony.

Its delegation might find the tea and water refreshments in Peking somewhat spartan.

Zhang said congress proceedings were translated from Chinese into numerous other languages, including Mongolian, Korean and Tibetan, to meet the needs of deputies from some of the country's more than 50 ethnic minorities.

Palestinian mavericks seek unusual ways to end Israeli occupation

By Galina Vromen
Reuter

JERUSALEM — Weary of the deadlock in efforts to restore peace to the Middle East, a few maverick Palestinians are coming up with unusual, sometimes quixotic, proposals aimed at ending Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

Their unorthodox ideas range from urging Palestinians to practise Gandhi-inspired non-violence in the West Bank to calling for Israeli annexation of the occupied territory.

Although they have gained only a handful of supporters, they reflect widespread despair among Palestinian activists who have lived under Israeli occupation since the 1967 Middle East war.

"Palestinians have not achieved anything by armed struggle. Maybe we can succeed in getting rid of Israeli rule by non-violence," said Mubarak Awad, who heads the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Centre for the Study of Non-Violence.

Awad, 42, a psychologist, dreams of persuading thousands of Palestinians to boycott Israeli goods and employers and to confront Israeli soldiers peacefully.

"We could get rid of the military occupation in two months if we refused to pay taxes, refused to carry identity cards. We could create total chaos. It has not come to that but it will," he told Reuters.

Born in Jerusalem, Awad lived for 15 years in the United States, where he was influenced by Quaker ideas. He travelled to India to learn about Gandhi's methods.

Awad insists his ideas do not counter the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO). "Our goal is to get rid of the military occupation. It is the PLO that will decide the borders of a Palestinian state," he added.

Another maverick who says his views do not go against the PLO is Sari Nusseibeh, a 38-year old Palestinian philosophy professor who teaches at Birzeit University in the West Bank.

Nusseibeh captured local headlines recently by calling for Israeli annexation of the West Bank. "At first people thought I was crazy, a traitor, but others are now coming around to my views," he said.

Formal annexation would force Israel to give Palestinians more rights, he said. "There is already de facto Israeli annexation. I want Israel to pay for it by giving me my political rights."

He dreams of Palestinians gaining a foothold and eventually a

majority in the Israeli parliament. They could then turn Israel and the territories into a bi-national state.

Nusseibeh said he publicised his views to shock Israelis into realising Israel has far more to gain by negotiating with the PLO than it has by according to demands of right-wing Jewish settlers who want to annex the West Bank.

Quite another view is taken by Mohammad Nasser, an electrical engineer from the Hebron area who has tried to form a Palestinian peace party. Mr. Nasser once belonged to the now-defunct Village Leagues which were supported by the Israeli occupation authorities, until their virtual disappearance from the West Bank political scene.

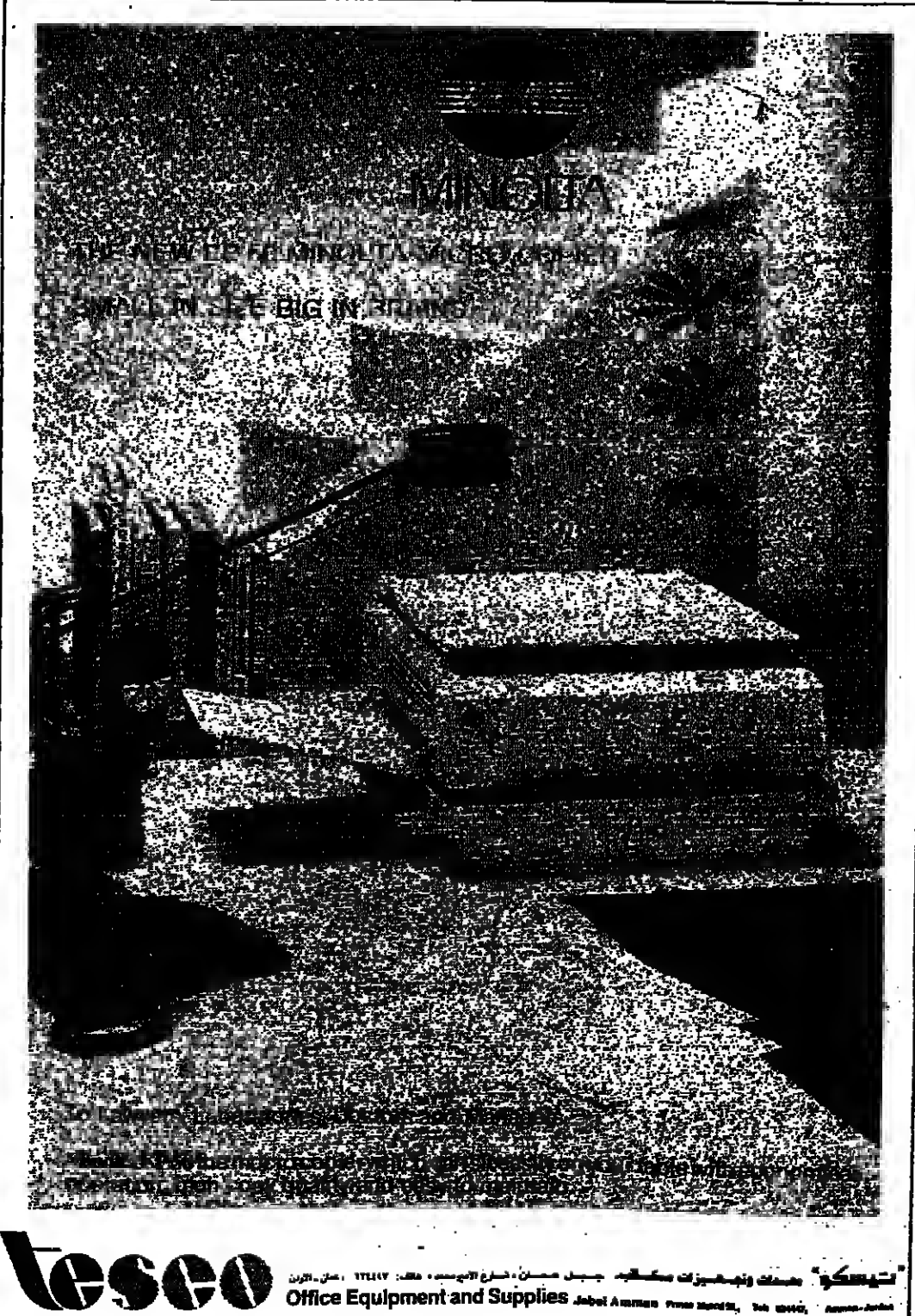
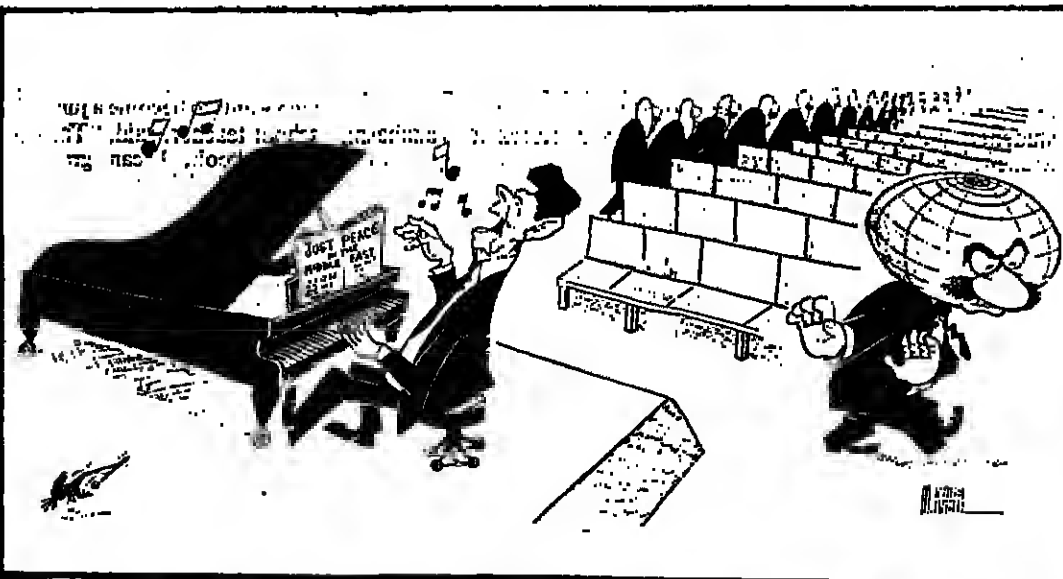
Nasser has appealed to Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to allow political activity in the

occupied territories, convinced that a Palestinian party ready to negotiate a settlement with Israel would gain supporters.

"(PLO leader) Arafat will not be a member in any peace talks. I think he wants peace. But the ones who decide PLO policy are the Palestinians who hold the guns. He cares about those people more than he does about West Bankers," he said.

Nasser called several thousand Palestinians together in 1982 to set up a Palestinian democratic movement for peace but was stopped by the Israelis from holding more meetings.

What he wants is open political activity, with PLO participation, to create a legitimate leadership. "Those outside the territories are deciding for us and we here are keeping silent," he said.



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لزيارة معرضنا السنوي في فندق عمان ماربوت أيام ٨ - ٩ - ١٠ نيسان ١٩٨٦
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مكتبة من الرجال

Wine scandals are as old as the trade, new book says

By Kathy Marks
Reuter

LONDON — Wine lovers have been shocked by the recent death of at least 16 Italians after drinking wine illegally laced with deadly methyl alcohol. But a new book says the latest horror stories, including last year's discovery of anti-freeze chemical in Austrian vineyards, are nothing new.

"Wine Scandal," by industry expert Fritz Hallgarten, shows unscrupulous traders have been adding substances as varied as coal, ox blood and frog-infested water to wine for centuries.

In 1490 wine merchants who adulterated their produce were thrown into the Rhine and their cellars were destroyed. But while punishments have become less dramatic through the ages, the fiddles have continued.

In 1966, 260 people crowded into an Italian courtroom, accused of making, producing and distributing wine which had never been near a grape, although it did contain tap water, ox blood and sludge from banana boats.

And as panic spread in Europe last September over the discovery in Austrian wines of chemicals normally used to keep water in engine radiators from freezing, three men were quietly executed in China after industrial alcohol which they had sold as rice wine claimed 25 lives.

"At a very early age I got to know the slyness of certain growers," writes Hallgarten, who grew up in a small village near a northern Rhineland vineyard, explaining the fiddles practised by some villagers to eke the maximum profit out of their grapes.

Hallgarten heads the British

House of Hallgarten wine firm, and is a lawyer specialising in wine law. He found that by the early 1960s there were so many wine-related crimes in West Germany that a separate public prosecutor's office had to be set up to deal with them.

The scandals in the industry — whether doctoring the wine, illegally blending or falsely labelling it — are as old as the trade itself, he claims.

Ancient Greeks and Romans used honey and spices to improve a bad summer's product. In 1285, King Edward I of England passed an act of parliament regulating the price and measure of wine sold in taverns to try to end widespread overcharging and short measures.

The swindlers were undeterred, and in 1660 another act was passed "for preventing abuses in the mingling, corrupting and vitiating of wines."

In other countries the situation was no different. In 1785 an Italian book called *Delle Adulterazioni del Vini* (of wine adulterations) was a bestseller, and Frenchmen could read in a work published in 1856 how to make wine without grapes at fraction of the cost of the real thing.

The growth of the wine trade into a huge industry has opened new doors for unscrupulous winemakers and merchants.

Some have tampered with poor quality wine to make it resemble a superior vintage. In 1974, French merchants tried to pass off three million litres of an inferior wine of Bordeaux. They also diluted the wine with water from a frog-infested pond.

Another dodge was to blend wine and then label it as exclusive to a famous chateau or area. Other

producers treated the wine with potash or caustic soda to cut acidity, glycerine to sweeten it, or coal and oil for body.

In 1980 a major fraud involving the addition of sugar to wine, a practice prohibited 16 years ago, was uncovered in West Germany. The perpetrators had listed the sugar in their books as chemicals to fight pests in the vineyard.

One witness in the ensuing trial received a murder threat after she had told the court her superiors had prevented her from reporting the illegal treatment to the authorities.

But it was not until the summer of 1985, when a ring of swindlers was found to have sweetened Austrian wines by adding the poisonous chemical diethylene glycol — used in anti-freeze — that wine scandals really started making news.

Millions of litres of Austrian and West German wine were seized or withdrawn from sale around the world. Companies went bankrupt and Austrian wine exports were crippled.

Probably never before has the quest for illicit profits posed such a major risk to winemakers. Methyl alcohol, the chemical involved in the current Italian wine scandal, can cause eye damage, blindness and death by respiratory failure if used in large amounts.

Nine people, including wine producers and traders, have been arrested since the scandal broke three weeks ago and some have been warned that they could face manslaughter charges.

Italy, fearing for the future of its wine industry, has passed new laws saying all wine must carry a certificate saying how much of the chemical it contains.

Inquest group gives NASA thorough going-over

By Robert Kearns
Reuter

WASHINGTON — William Rogers, a former secretary of state often muscled aside by Henry Kissinger in Nixon White House days, is proving himself no pushover as chief investigator of the U.S. space agency.

Appointed by President Reagan to chair the blue-ribbon commission investigating the Challenger space shuttle disaster, the 72-year old Rogers has stunned the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) with his dogged questioning of NASA leaders and his blunt, unfettered appraisal of the once-exalted agency's safety procedures.

When the Challenger exploded on January 28 killing all seven crew members aboard, NASA officials braced themselves for an investigation into the causes.

What they expected was an exhaustive technical analysis much like the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board conducts after an airliner crash.

What they got was a courtroom-like grilling, before a nationwide television audience, in a manner reminiscent of the Senate Watergate committee that ranked many of President Richard Nixon's aides over the coals on television in 1973.

The hard-hitting approach may have caught NASA leaders off-guard because of impressions about Rogers dating from Nixon administration days when White House adviser Kissinger exerted far more influence than Rogers and eventually got his secretary of state job as well.

Rogers bore that humiliation with quiet grit and gentlemanly aloofness — but those who know him say NASA officials should not have been fooled.

As a young lawyer nearly a half century ago, they point out, Rogers worked for two years as a prosecutor in the New York district attorney's office, and close questioning of witnesses is a role he still clearly cherishes.

After hours of listening to NASA and aerospace industry officials testify behind closed doors, Rogers, a tall, courtly, grey-haired man who patiently responds to reporters' questions and makes a point of openness, went public with a consensus opinion of the commission.

He described NASA's procedures for deciding whether it was safe to launch as "flawed" — an early conclusion that set the tone for subsequent hearings.

What annoyed him and other commission members was the insistence of top NASA officials that they were unaware of safety concerns expressed up to the last min-

ute by engineers for Morton-Thiokol, which built the shuttle booster rockets by engineers for Rockwell International, which built the Challenger itself and by at least one of NASA's own rocket experts.

The engineers were worried because a shuttle had never been launched in weather as cold as it was at Cape Canaveral that day. They said natural caution counselled waiting for warmer weather.

The 13-member commission has been collecting information on different aspects of the inquiry from various NASA and contractor sites around the country. Public hearings have disclosed what these working groups have unearthed in private talks with NASA officials and others and what has been found by a small commission staff of experts.

While one group of three has been looking at NASA management and safety criteria, another has concentrated on various "failure scenarios" on why the shuttle exploded.

Neil Armstrong, the first man to set foot on the moon as commander of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission, and Sally Ride, the first American woman to fly into space, on Challenger's second flight in 1983, are the two commission members with actual space flight experience.

A third, retired Air Force General and test pilot Chuck Yeager, holds a string of records for altitude, speed and distance flying and broke early ground for the space programme by piloting rocket-like planes to the edge of space.

Never an astronaut himself, Yeager epitomizes the unflappable poise that military pilots call "the right stuff."

He has yet to attend a public session of the commission but says he keeps in close touch by telephone and is extremely interested in its findings.

Ride and Armstrong sit on either side of Rogers and frequently join in the questioning, rarely displaying emotion.

Ride, however, several times registered surprise when NASA officials testified that astronauts were not briefed on some safety concerns raised by contractors or told the extent of potentially life-threatening problems mission controllers had discovered in observing shuttle flights.

While these four commission members are the best known to the general public, Reagan chose other members who are equally prominent in the worlds of science and business.

Richard Feynman, a California Institute of Technology professor of theoretical physics, won the Nobel Prize in 1965. He has been

used hearing audiences — mostly reporters and curiosity seekers — with ad hoc experiments and explanations that cut through the engineering jargon of NASA officials.

Impatient at the insistence of some NASA technocrats that unusually cold temperatures were unlikely to have affected the critical synthetic rubber O-ring seals that close gaps between the segments of the booster rockets, Feynman dunked a piece of such a ring in a glass of ice water.

This showed, he told NASA officials looking on, what anyone who has left a garden hose outside in winter already knows — that synthetic rubber becomes brittle as it gets cold.

The disaster analysis has now zeroed in on the failure of the O-rings and suspicions that freezing weather may have made them too rigid to seal in the booster rockets' white-hot gasses.

Randa Habib's Corner

Keeping up the good spirit

On 8th of April 1982 the first Randa Habib's Corner appeared in the Jordan Times. The corner was preceded by the following introduction:

"I have always maintained that one only needs to look around him to be made to laugh or cry, and that life can assume any colour we wish to give it."

Therefore let us enjoy together some gay moments picked from everyday life... the anecdotes I shall relate to you in this Column are about real life, blunders and bricks that will amuse people and hopefully make them think twice... taken in their right perspective.

One last thing: any resemblance to persons alive or dead is, of course, intended."

Well, that was the spirit. And now, while we start together this fifth year, I should like to reiterate that the spirit of this Corner will remain one of constructive criticism.

Your encouragements, contributions and your good spirit are the main reason for the continuation and the success of this Corner, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for it.

The cooperation of the authorities who quite often reacted positively to our criticism and took the adequate measures to rectify things, is another important reason for the long life of this Corner which will hopefully be continued for many more years. And we thank them too.

So let us keep on trying together to improve things around us and to improve ourselves, with a smile.

For, a smile is the best cure for pain.

A triumph of design and construction

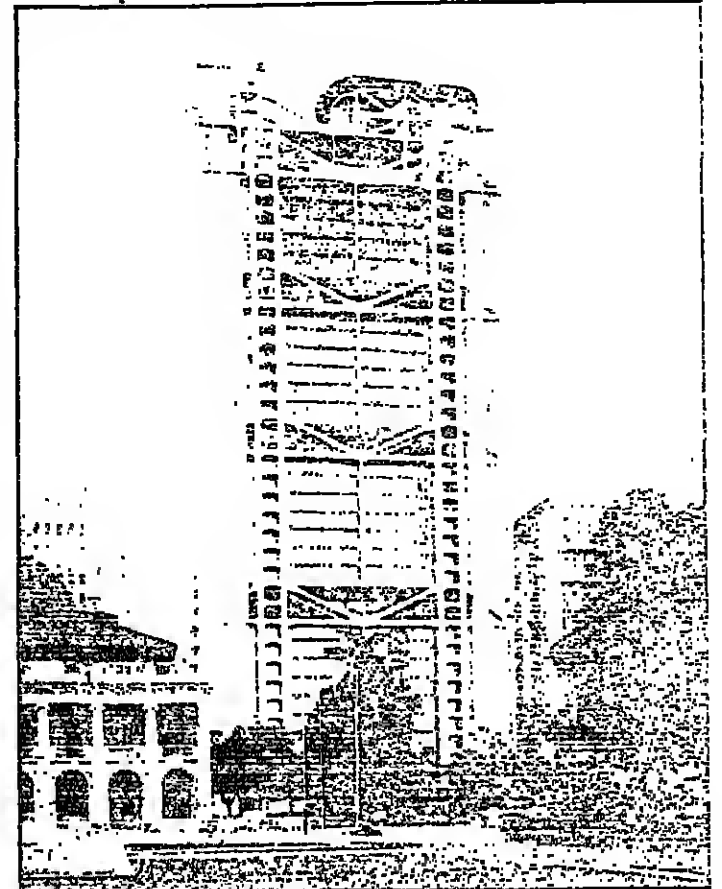
WHEN Hongkongbank decided in the late 1970s to redevelop its 1935 headquarters, its requirements were very clear. It needed a building which would match the bank's development well into the 21st century and it wanted an exciting architectural design worthy of its position as one of the world's leading financial institutions.

On April 7, 1980, the governor of Hong Kong, Sir Edward Youde, officially opened one of the most bold and innovative buildings ever seen. Designed with an inherent flexibility capable of responding to changing technology for at least the next 50 years, the building is also being hailed as a modern architectural masterpiece.

It was designed by British architect Norman Foster, chosen from seven of the world's leading architectural firms invited in 1979 by the bank to submit proposals for the redevelopment scheme.

The result is a radical 52-level steel framed building rising almost 600 feet above Des Voeux Road and reaching some 60 feet below in four basement levels. At ground level, the building straddles a plaza stretching from Queen's Road to Des Voeux Road. This public space meant a bonus in the plot ratio resulting in a building which has a floor area of one million square feet and almost three times more useable office space than its 1935 predecessor.

The first phase of the new headquarters was completed and handed over to the bank on July 1, 1985. This comprised the 11 levels of the banking hall and the basement levels which include the



The new headquarters of Hongkongbank

securities and investments department, safe deposits vault, cash vaults and the central plant and services. Just four weeks later, the Banking Hall opened for business and for the first time, the public were able to enter the building which they had watched grow so rapidly during the previous three

and a half years. This public area is the most dramatic part of the building with its central atrium rising 170 feet above the plaza at ground level. The two escalators leading up into the Banking Hall at Level Three are, at 25 metres long, the longest freely supported escalators in the world.

Professor teaches history through comic books

Asahi News Service

SHIZUOKA, Japan — A professor at Shizuoka University in central Japan teaches modern Japanese history using a comic book series originally designed to teach history to primary schoolchildren.

Kiyotaka Kuroha, professor in the university's education department, explains, "Almost all the students in the education department will become teachers, at primary or middle schools. I began to use comic books in my lessons last October because it is important to understand Japanese history through concrete illustrations

which many primary and middle school students are familiar with."

A typical Kuroha lesson proceeds as follows: "Please look at the flag depicted in the upper part of the 100th page. Although the flag is drawn in black and white, it is really blue. You find a sun at the upper corner of the flag. The colour of the sun is white. This is a sun-in-the-blue-sky flag, or a national flag of Taiwan."

"This is Korekiyo Takahashi, prime minister of Japan from November 1921 through June 1922. In this comic book, his face is depicted as slim, but in reality he was more full-cheeked."

Kuroha's lesson using comics is

quite popular among the students.

Hanyu Mochizuki, one of Kuroha's students, said, "It goes without saying that Professor Kuroha's deep knowledge of Japanese modern history is the key factor, but his lesson using comics is much more enjoyable than a lesson with a difficult textbook."

Toshio Watanabe, a student who wants to become a junior high school teacher, said, "Through a comic book, I can grasp particulars which I cannot understand through an ordinary textbook. Suppose what I learn from an ordinary textbook is bone, what I learn from a comic story is flesh."

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The British Bank of the Middle East

البنك البريطاني للشرق الأوسط

Dutch minister blames clubs for fan violence

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch Interior Minister Rudolf De Korte has criticised Dutch soccer clubs for doing too little to curb violence in the stands and instead leaving the burden of maintaining order to police.

De Korte's remarks came after 40 people were injured and at least 85 arrested in Easter weekend soccer violence here, the worst in recent years.

Last year's Heysel Stadium soccer riot in Belgium, in which 39 people were killed, has sparked increased police vigilance during professional soccer games in The Netherlands, further straining an

already short-staffed and over-worked police force.

De Korte made his remarks Sunday in the eastern Dutch town of Delden, during an election campaign meeting of the right-wing Liberal party.

Professional soccer clubs, said De Korte, "in my opinion spend large sums of money to purchase players, yet they do try to turn

over this kind of elementary (security) business, which is connected with their operations, to the police.

"The police already face a heavy workload and surely have something better to do than to deal with these excesses, week after week."

"That cannot be," De Korte said, proposing instead that the Royal Dutch Soccer League (KNVB) be allowed to impose sanctions against soccer clubs who do not help prevent fan violence.

The KNVB declined immediate comment on De Korte's remarks.

New Spanish track to test drivers

By Ian Kersey
Reuter

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, Spain — Nelson Piquet, already established as the man to beat in this year's world drivers' championship, will this weekend attempt to consolidate his initial supremacy on unfamiliar Spanish terrain.

Piquet, his increasingly successful Williams, and the rest of the Formula One circus contest the second Grand Prix of the season on the brand new Jerez circuit in the arid south-west.

Spain last hosted a Formula One race at the Jarama track near Madrid in 1981. Five years on, a 4.2 kilometre stretch of near-flat, untraced tarmac in the heart of its

sherry-producing region awaits the latest generation of drivers.

Formula One's circuit safety expert Derek Ongaro says the track is wide with good visibility. And safe.

All Piquet and company have to do is gain an intimate knowledge of its handful of hard-braking corners and eight fast turns in time for Sunday's race.

Those who learn the most in the short time available — and the gifted Brazilian can count himself among them — will have the advantage because split seconds are precious.

Thursday has been set aside for driver familiarisation before Friday's first official qualifying session.

Piquet began his bid for a third world title with a convincing win in Brazil on March 23. It was his first outing in a Williams and the fourth successive triumph for the team.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

African Golf Confederation formed in Rabat

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Representatives of five African countries have set up an African Golf Confederation and invited other golf-playing African nations to join, the officially sponsored Moroccan Golf Federation announced Tuesday. Golf is known to be King Hassan II's favourite sport, and some of the links he has had constructed in many parts of the country are regarded as among the best in the world. Representatives of golf federations in Morocco, Algeria, Zaire, Senegal and Nigeria took part in the confederation's inaugural meeting. Rabat was chosen as the new organisation's permanent headquarters and Hassan Yacoubi, president of the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation, was named as its first chairman. Invitations to join were addressed initially to Tunisia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Guinea and Ghana.

Iraq seeks more Brazilian coaches

BAGHDAD (R) — World Cup finalists Iraq are recruiting Brazilian coaches in an effort to promote the standard of soccer in the country, the Iraqi Football Association (IFA) chairman said Wednesday. Uday Saddam Hussein, son of President Saddam Hussein and chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee, told reporters an IFA delegation was now holding negotiations in Brazil. He said Iraq's senior squad, now in Brazil to prepare for the June World Cup finals in Mexico, would return home to play Gulf Cup holders Kuwait on April 28.

Real Madrid welcomes Dutch coach

MADRID (R) — Spanish champions Real Madrid Tuesday formally presented former Netherlands manager Leo Beenhakker as their new coach for the next two seasons. "Any coach who joins Real Madrid shoulders the heavy burden of the myth of a club that is a living legend," club president Raul Mendoza told a news conference. Speaking fluent Spanish, Beenhakker paid tribute to present trainer Luis Molowny, who led Real to their first title in six years this season and who will remain in charge of the team until the former Zaragoza coach takes over on July 1. "Working with a side such as Real Madrid is a heavy responsibility, but I am very confident about the next two years," Beenhakker said.

West Ham, with games in hand, stays in race

LONDON (AP) — West Ham United edged Southampton 1-0 Tuesday to move into fourth place in the English Soccer League standings and boost its chance of winning the title.

The goalscorer was England international centre-back Alvin Martin in the 26th minute.

Ironically, Martin's chances of playing for England in this summer's World Cup finals were helped by last Saturday's injury to Southampton's Mark Wright, who broke his leg in a cup semifinal and is considered very doubtful to make the trip to Mexico.

Following Tuesday's victory, West Ham is seven points behind pacesetters Liverpool and Everton. But it has three games in hand over Liverpool and two over second placed Everton and with three points counting for a win, has a good chance of joining the Merseyside duo at the top.

50th Masters a proving ground

By Walter Bagley
Reuter

AUGUSTA, Georgia — Plenty of players, including defending champion Bernhard Langer of West Germany, have things to prove in the 50th edition of the U.S. Masters Golf Championship which begins Thursday.

Langer, for example, would like to show the world that his victory last year in only his third attempt was well-deserved — and not a gift from American Curtis Strange.

Strange, on the other hand, would like to erase or at least ease the memory of last year, when he blew a three-stroke lead with six holes to play.

Spanish Severiano Ballesteros, a two-time Masters champion who tied for second last year, would love to win this one — at least partly to thumb his nose at the U.S. PGA, who banned him from most of their events this year because he did not play enough of them in 1985.

There are also a host of other players here who have good reasons for wanting to win this first "major" tournament of the year.

Sandy Lyle of Britain, relaxed and brimming with confidence after his first American triumph at Greensboro on Sunday, would love a Masters green jacket to add to his British Open title.

Tom Watson needs a victory to reestablish his credibility as one of the world's leading golfers after going without a win since 1984.

Ben Crenshaw, who reveres the traditions of the game more than most players, would like nothing better than to use the Masters to end a slump which began just after he won his treasured green jacket two years ago.

Led Trevino, who has never finished better than 10th at Augusta, would like at the age of 46 to complete a personal sweep of the four major tournaments. He already has twice won the U.S. Open, the British Open and the PGA Championship.

Australian David Graham, now a transplanted American, would like to add the Masters to the U.S. Open and PGA Championship titles he has won in a distinguished career in this country.

American Calvin Peete, who already has won two PGA tour events this year and is second on

the money list, and Jim Thorpe, who always plays well in big events, will try to become the first black Masters champion. Blacks have been allowed to play in this tournament only since 1975.

Scott Verplank, a gifted university student who beat a strong field of professionals — and Thorpe in a playoff — to win the Western Open last year, is trying to become the first amateur to win the Masters.

Then there are the perennial, if now only sentimental, favourites — Jack Nicklaus, the only five-time champion, Arnold Palmer, a four-time winner, and South African Gary Player, who is seeking his fourth jacket along with a victory in his third decade here.

It is Strange, however, perhaps more than anyone else in the 88-man field, who would relish a victory in the 50th Masters after the way he let the 49th slip from his grip.

After an amazing recovery from an opening 80 with rounds of 65 and 68, Strange found water on the 13th and 15th holes, making bogey each time, and then bogged the difficult 18th to wind up tied with Ballesteros and Ray Floyd for second place.

THE Daily Crossword by CF Murray

ACROSS

- Three Live!
- Medieval dried tubers
- Roses
- Mauritius casualty
- acid
- Slugs item
- Norway's king
- Nepal
- Top-notch
- Certain
- election loser
- Showed enamel
- London gallery
- Autoslash
- TV street
- Certain rug
- Those against
- Calles of opera
- A Cantor
- Obscure
- Assessment in Eng.
- Pinch's word
- See bird
- Seaweed
- Before shop or band
- Like some pages
- Great
- Ecclesiastical garment
- December celebration
- Tribe
- Mariner's dir.
- Hair style
- Concave
- Word with flat or hand
- Hollywood's Franchot
- Raced
- Stops up
- Atmosphere
- Gleeful
- Choker's pinnace
- Cabbage cousin
- Social insects
- January in Jamaica
- Appressed fully
- Pass review
- With — breath
- Flying toys
- Brainstorms
- Spruced up
- Horses

DOWN

- Hero
- "Dum Yankee" girl
- One
- Popular ballet
- Street
- Score
- Urg novel
- Shut
- Gr. Island
- This; Sp.
- Atop
- Husk Finn's transport
- Apartment
- Ardo
- the lily
- 53 Gals
- Macaw

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

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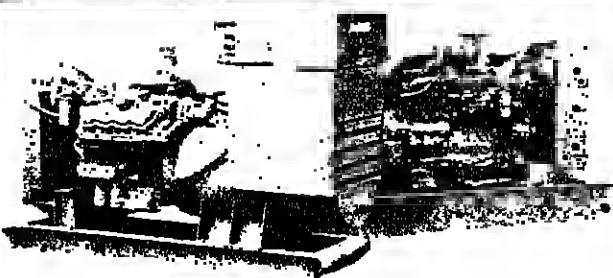
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Cinema Philadelphia

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Performances: 5:30, 6:50, 8:30, 10:30

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Tel: 622198

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Performances: 5:30, 6:50, 8:30, 10:30

مكتبة ابن خلدون

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4602/12	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3825/30	Canadian dollars
	2.3255/65	West German marks
	2.6190/200	Dutch guilders
	1.9595/605	Swiss francs
	47.35/40	Belgian francs
	7.4025/75	French francs
	1593/1594	Italian lire
	180.10/20	Japanese yen
	7.3675/725	Swedish crowns
	7.2875/925	Norwegian crowns
	8.5500/600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	338.60/339.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed at the day's lows after profit-taking eroded the early advances and selling pressure gathered pace during the afternoon, dealers said.

Buying in response to Wall Street's higher overnight close lifted the FTSE 100 index to its high on Wednesday of 1,683.5 at around 0845 GMT but a lack of follow through saw the index start to move back almost immediately afterwards. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 18.1 points on the day to 1,657.6.

Dealers said the U.K. M-3 money supply figures for March, showing 2.25 per cent growth, were at the upper end of expectations and added momentum to the declines in later trading. Government bonds eroded early gains of up to one point in the longer end to around 1/2 points as operators took profits after the money supply data, dealers said.

The early advances in government bonds were fuelled by the prospects for a further reduction in U.K. clearing bank base rates which were on Tuesday reduced to 11 per cent from 11 1/2 by the main clearing banks.

Wednesday's lower trend in U.K. money market interest rates and declining world interest rates supported the belief that base rates are headed lower still, but the M-3 figure on Wednesday indicated such a move could be later rather than sooner, dealers said.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to make changes that may be necessary if you are to have your practical affairs on a satisfactory basis. Be very clever in the early part of the day.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Concentrate on daily routines and get support from a hewig and friends in the evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your ideas are fine for attaining what you want the most, so make use of them. Show gratitude where it is due.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Sit down with your mate and advisers and map out a plan through which you can gain your cherished ambitions.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Any suggestions given by your associates and good friends can help you to advance more quickly in your career.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Handle whatever work you are doing well since a bigwig is observing you and you could be in line for advancement.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have new ambitions and should bring your talents to the attention of those who can assist you in gaining them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Do whatever close ties expect of you and come to a fine understanding with them during the day and night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can come to a fine agreement now with one whom it was difficult to do before this. Be clever.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Know which direction your career or ambition wants to take, and then get on the road to success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are highly inventive now and can find best ways to sell your talents. Strive for more harmony at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can improve that disturbing condition now that has bothered you for some time. In the evening there is more accord at home.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be as practical and precise as possible in handling your correspondence at this time. Handle your reports and statements.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will quickly get at the heart of any situation and be able to solve problems easily, so be sure to give as practical an education as possible in order to gain fine success since security is very important to your wise youngster.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Opportunities are present all day and evening for some unusually productive ideas that can be reduced to a workable course to increase your present abundance.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Find a better way of handling assets and liabilities so that your life can be richer and fuller.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can gain your personal desires through the good auspices of fine friends today. Show that you are a clever person.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Look to an important person who can show you the right direction to gain your finest ambitions. Be more thoughtful to this person.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Those who admire you and are successful are eager to see you get ahead faster so accept their help willingly.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Seek out a well-known expert and find out how you can get all of your affairs working on a more satisfactory basis.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your associates have much expertise and can help you to gain some ambition that intrigues you now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study some frustration you may have and turn it into a stepping stone for advancement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A charming person can easily make peace between you and an associate who is in the mood for a fight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You need the aid of kin to make a big success of whatever it is you are working on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get out in the bustling world of activity and make big headway, be it only for pleasure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you are more concerned with the needs of your family, you can gain greater respect and affection from your closest ties.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can have greater profits by adding worthwhile and reliable allies to your staff. Be more frank in stating your aims.

Egypt lowers

prices of oil

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt is decreasing its oil prices for March by up to \$1.75 a barrel and is expected to make further cuts in its April prices, a senior petroleum ministry official said Wednesday.

Mr. Hammad Ayoub, director of the ministry's foreign trade department, said the price of Egypt's top grade Gulf of Suez blend had been reduced by 25 cents to \$13.75 per barrel for the first half of March and by another 50 cents to \$13.25 a barrel for the second half of the month.

The price of Belayim blend remained the same at \$13.25 a barrel for the first half of March, and was decreased by \$1.75 to \$12.50 per barrel for the second half of March.

Ras Badran blend's price was cut by 25 cents to \$12.85 per barrel in the first half of March and by a further 50 cents to \$12.35 per barrel for the second half.

Mr. Ayoub said the price of Ras Chareb blend had decreased by \$1 to \$11.15 per barrel for the duration of March.

"The April prices will be decided in a day or two, and there will probably be a further revision or decrease but I can't give any figures yet," Mr. Ayoub said.

The government said on Tuesday that Egypt produced more oil and earned more money from it in 1985 than in the previous year.

Comparative figures for output and profit were released in a statement by the state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corp., the oil ministry's principal department, and distributed by the government's Middle East News Agency.

Crude oil production in 1985 rose to 44.3 million tons from 41.3 million tons the previous year, the statement said.

The country also produced 3,733,000 tons of natural gas and condensates in 1985, compared with 3,045,000 tons in 1984, it said.

Profits in 1985 amounted to \$2.6 billion up from \$2.3 billion the previous year, "although world supply exceeded demand during that period," it said.

Sheraton team in town

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from Damascus Sheraton Hotel is currently in Amman on a promotion trip that lasts for five days.

The delegation is headed by Miss Nada Hussaini, the hotel's rooms division and public relations manager, and includes Mr. Wadah Kanaan, the front office manager, and Mrs. Hafsa Hamdi, assistant sales manager.

Damascus Sheraton is one of three five-star hotels in Damascus and has 325 rooms. It was chosen Sheraton's hotel of the year for 1985.

The delegation's trip is the first of its kind to Jordan and its members hope that their visit will open the door for fruitful cooperation in tourism between Jordan and Syria.

IMF forecasts modest global growth

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted Wednesday the global economy would expand a modest 3.1 per cent this year but said collapsing oil prices might drive the growth rate higher.

The forecast compares with 2.9 per cent expansion last year and the IMF said it based its assumption on an oil price of \$15 a barrel. In recent days, the price has fluctuated from less than \$10 to \$14.

But the IMF said considerable uncertainties existed in the international economic environment, such as the scope and impact of efforts to curb the U.S. budget deficit, currency movement and the path of interest rates and oil prices.

Releasing its world economic outlook during this week's two-yearly meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, the fund predicted modest growth of three per cent in the industrial world, against 2.8 per cent in 1985.

Growth could be higher if gains in real income due to lower oil prices quickly translated into increased demand, it said.

The IMF forecast a lower growth rate of three per cent for the United States, compared with the Reagan administration's own prediction of four per cent.

The IMF took a more cautious view about the pace of reduction in Washington's huge \$171.9 billion budget deficit, but noted lower oil prices would mean a \$60 billion cut in import bills for industrial nations over 1985 levels.

Fund officials said Japan, which is predicted to grow three per cent this year, had the ability to expand its economy between four and 4.5 per cent.

Tokyo has just unveiled measures designed to stimulate its economy and reduce the hefty trade surpluses with more imports following pressure from Washington and its European allies.

The fund painted a sombre picture of growth in developing nations, which together owe between \$700 and \$800 billion in foreign debt.

Growth of these nations is actually forecast to fall to three per cent in 1986 from 3.2 per cent last year, partly because of rampant inflation.

But the IMF said interest rates had fallen more rapidly than expected and pointed out that some developing states were making progress in reforming their economies.

In particular, the IMF predicts a small 1.6 per cent growth rate for Latin America, down sharply from 3.8 per cent last year.

The Inter-American Development Bank has said the region, which accounts for almost half of the developing countries' debts, needed an annual growth rate of more than four per cent for the rest of the decade to pull out of its debt drudgery.

On inflation, the IMF said the average in industrial countries would fall to 3.4 per cent in 1986 and to three per cent next.

In 1985, the rate averaged 3.9 per cent. It attributed the decline to tight monetary policies, moderate wage rises, persisting high unemployment, weak commodity prices and the impact of deregulation intensifying competition.

In the developing world, excluding extreme cases like Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Israel and Peru, inflation is also predicted to remain around nine per cent before falling to about seven per cent next year.

The IMF said there were reasonable prospects for lower interest rates, especially if the United States pressed ahead with efforts to curb the budget deficit.

It added that widespread confidence in continuing low inflation and lower oil and other commodity prices would tend to reduce pressure on interest rates.

G-10 asks IMF to assess indicator use

Meanwhile, the Group of 10 (G-10) leading industrial countries has asked the IMF to assess the ways its members monitor the performance of their economies.

Setting targets and coordinating policy among members of the group could be made easier if economic indicators were compiled by directly comparable methods, ministers agreed in a communique issued after talks Tuesday night.

They called on the IMF to prepare a study on the "various official indicators and on their potential use in the surveillance process."

Monetary sources said indicators such as inflation, growth, and balance of payments could help set policy targets. This could imply what the level of exchange rates ought to be.

The communique also called on export credit agencies to cooperate when they resumed offering cover to debtor countries implementing adjustment policies supported by the IMF.

Ministers also reaffirmed their willingness to provide rescheduling through the Paris Club of Western creditor nations to countries undertaking IMF-backed reform programmes.

Monetary sources and officials leaving the meeting said both initiatives were watered down during the debate.

Officials have been saying that a possible meeting of export credit agencies, to coordinate resumption of cover to bolster the U.S. debt initiative for developing countries, had been under consideration.

But West German state secretary for finance, Mr. Hans Tietmeyer, said his country persuaded other nations to accept the word "cooperate" for "coordinate" in a key phrase of the communique.

The communique was also watered down regarding the use of economic indicators to bring

about intensified cooperation among industrial nations on economic policy, the sources said.

But they said the United States and West Germany worked to play down any firm agreement on the issue.

The communique read: "(Ministers) agreed that it might be useful to consider the use of indicators for the assessment of convergence and policy consistency both domestically and internationally."

Elsewhere, the communique stated that ministers recognised the need to strengthen non-inflationary global growth and expand world trade.

Japan sees no immediate interest rate cuts

On world interest rates, Japanese Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita said Wednesday in Washington there was no feeling among finance ministers that interest rates should be cut in the next two weeks.

He told reporters after a G-10 meeting. "I do not sense any feelings that the time is imminent (for rate cuts) like this week or next week."

He noted it had taken from the last Japanese discount rate cut on March 7 until the end of that month for the lower rates to show up in bank deposit rates.

The agreement among Group of Five (G-5) finance ministers in London last January that the time "was ripe and right for a reduction in interest rates" still stood, Mr. Takeshita said.

Top officials of the G-5 group of leading industrial nations and monetary sources suggested Tuesday that economic conditions for a second round of internationally coordinated interest rate reductions were ripening.

Mr. Takeshita also said that G-10 ministers believed it was generally desirable for interest rates to come down, but there was no specific call for any action.

A G-10 communique issued earlier made no mention of the

interest rate issue. Financial analysts in Washington have speculated that a concerted round of cuts could be timed for just before the May summit in Tokyo between G-5 countries, Canada and Italy.

On new funding for the World Bank agency which provides soft loans to the poorest countries, a bank official said that donor countries are nearing agreement on a larger fund to provide interest-free credit to the poorest nations through the World Bank's concessional loan department.

"Clearly, there has been progress in terms of the attitude and position of the United States," which gave assurances at meetings here "it will support a fully satisfactory replenishment" for the new three-year period ending in 1990, said Mr. Moeen Qureshi of Pakistan, senior vice president for finance.

Insistence by President Ronald Reagan's administration on holding the line on the U.S. contribution — 25 per cent of the total for the International Development Association (IDA) — had kept the amount for the current three-year period at \$9 billion. Many countries have called that inadequate.

"At no stage has the U.S. taken a position on a precise figure, which has not yet been decided by the U.S. administration," Mr. Qureshi said.

But the United States, in the first round of IDA negotiations at Paris in January, spoke of 1987-90 total replenishment of \$9 billion to \$12 billion and now talks about \$10.5 billion to \$12 billion, he said.

"There has been no indication that \$12 billion would not be acceptable," he said.

The Paris round ended with an agreement to seek \$12 billion from the 34 donor countries. Taking inflation into account, this is equivalent in real terms to the current \$9 billion, plus the emergency credit facility for drought-stricken African countries that starting next year will be part of the IDA general fund, Mr. Qureshi said.

Arab power generating capacity rises

BAGHDAD (OPECNA) — Power generating capacity in Arab countries recorded an annual increase of 30 per cent during the late 1970s and early 1980s. In some Gulf states, average per capita consumption rose to 10,000 kilowatt, the highest in the world. This was stated in a report submitted to a four-day seminar on the rationalisation of electricity in the Arab World which opened here Tuesday. The seminar, jointly organised by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and the Iraqi ministry of industry and minerals, will review reports on measures to reduce power consumption, the experience of industrialised countries in this field, modern technology in the manufacture of electrical devices, and new methods designed to improve the efficiency of power grids.

Japan reports \$52.6b trade surplus

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan reported an embarrassing record \$52.58 billion 1985/86 trade surplus, Wednesday only one day after it announced measures to stimulate an economy it said was suffering from the high yen.

Exports for the financial year ended on March 31 rose 7.7 per cent to \$182.63 billion while imports fell 3.3 per cent to \$130.50 billion, finance ministry figures showed.

But officials and private economists said that while the record surplus could turn Japanese politicians faces red at the upcoming May Tokyo summit, underlying figures show the economy is indeed facing an export slump in the coming year.

Tuesday's release of March export letters of credit, which reflect upcoming export performance, showed a slowdown in every major Japanese market save Europe.

Japan's top industry group Kei-

danren said the worst effect of the strong yen is yet to come as many exporters struggle in vain to adjust production and prices of their goods.

The high export figures also reflect a distortion in reported trade statistics, known as the J-curve effect, caused when actual trade done gets out of line with rapid foreign exchange movements, the economists said.

The government is caught between the anger of its own industrial lobby and the demands of its trade partners to cut the large Japanese surplus.

However, the economists said the trade surplus is likely to get even bigger as the J-curve effect continues. The yen has risen 30 per cent against the dollar in only six months.

They said the collapse in world oil prices since the beginning of this year should also widen the surplus by cutting Japan's import bills. Oil accounts for about 30 per

cent of the total value of its imports.

Private Japanese banks forecast an even higher trade surplus for this year.

Japan may therefore find itself in the worst of both worlds, with a rising trade surplus yet stagnant exports, the economists said.

They said the effect of the strong yen may now not start showing in the trade figures until as late as the 1987/88 fiscal year.

A ministry official said Wednesday's 1985/86 surplus figures were boosted by particularly high vehicle exports to the United States, Europe and China.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said earlier Wednesday that Japan had made "remarkable progress" on steps to open its markets to foreign goods but acknowledged that much remained to be done.

He said U.S.-Japan trade friction spawned by Japan's bilateral trade surplus of nearly \$50 billion

last year will be "first on the agenda" when he meets Mr. Reagan.

Mr. Nakasone said that because of the huge trade imbalance, "there is every possibility that this (issue) will resurface" in Congress, which in the past has questioned Mr. Reagan's free trade stance and demanded protectionist legislation against Japanese imports.

The prime minister said there was some justification in charges that Japan has not always been a fair trader.

"In the past, the situation may have been that access to Japanese markets may not have been open," Mr. Nakasone said. "But I would like to stress that in the past year we have made remarkable progress."

He noted that 134 companies asked by the government to buy more foreign goods last year increased their purchases of manufactured imports in 1985 by \$5.2 billion, to \$24.8 billion.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZARUE
FECAH
DARFIA
QUAPEL



Answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: CIVIL ROBIN HYMNAL DINGHY
Answer: He had to work like a horse because his boss was always doing this—"RIDING" HIM

Marcos loyalists launch 'people's will' movement

MANILA (Agencies) — Supporters of ousted Philippine leader Ferdinand Marcos Wednesday launched a movement to support an unofficial session of parliament which has been abolished by President Corazon Aquino.

Organisers said they planned to erect barricades at the site — so far undisclosed — of Monday's session in order to protect members of Marcos' party, the New Society Movement (KBL).

The organisers said the new "People's Will" Movement would confront Mrs. Aquino supporters who had announced plans to prevent the session with a "people power" demonstration.

The KBL had an overwhelming majority in the 190-seat National Assembly, which was elected in 1984 for a six-year term, and many members still insist they are elected representatives.

Mrs. Aquino, catapulted to power in February by a civilian-backed military revolt against Marcos, abolished parliament last month and gave herself sweeping powers to rule by decree until a new constitution is drawn up.

Former Labour Minister Blas Ople, leader of more than 100 KBL members, who have agreed to attend Monday's session, said the meeting was intended to attend Monday's session, said the meeting was intended to assert the right of parliament "to exist be-

cause the popular will is behind it." Meanwhile six Philippine citizens have filed a class-action lawsuit against Marcos and his top army general seeking millions of dollars in damages for "the mass torture, murder, disappearance and presumed deaths of thousands" of their countrymen.

"We allege a holocaust was conducted by Marcos and Gen. Fabian Ver, his army chief of staff, in wiping out tens of thousands of people who legitimately opposed their regime, or just were trying to eliminate poverty in the Philippines," Attorney Robert Swift said Tuesday.

Mr. Swift filed the suit Monday in U.S. district court. He said his co-counsel is Jose Mari Velez of Manila, who he claimed was imprisoned for two years by Marcos. "Our firm does human rights work and I have contacts in the Philippines," Mr. Swift said.

There are more than 10,000 murder and torture victims, and we're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars in claims," Mr. Swift said.

Mr. Swift said Marcos and Gen. Ver, now living in exile in Hawaii, were served there with the papers

of the legal action which also seeks to enjoin them from leaving the United States or to dispose of any assets in this country.

"We allege that Marcos and Ver conducted a systematic and continual violation of international law and human rights in order to keep themselves in power between 1972 when Marcos imposed martial law and 1986," Mr. Swift said. "They are now beginning to find mass graves in the Philippines and relatives of those victims will benefit."

Senior Philippines government officials said Wednesday Marcos and his wife Imelda used aliases to open overseas bank accounts and acquire properties.

They said Imelda used the name Jane Ryan while Marcos used a Scandinavian surname. The first name was William.

The officials said the information was disclosed to the cabinet by Jovito Salonga, minister for the commission on good government, who is trying to track down the wealth amassed by Marcos during his 20-year rule.

Salonga has estimated the Marcos fortune at up to \$10 billion in cash and investments.

He said U.S. estate agents Joseph and Ralph Bernstein, who are linked to three New York properties worth \$350 million believed owned the Marcoses, might cooperate with his commission.

Pretoria detains 2 gunmen trained in Libya

CAPE TOWN (R) — The South African government said Wednesday it was holding two Libyan-trained guerrillas sent to eliminate black leaders and mobilise students against the government.

Louis Nel, deputy minister responsible for information, told a news conference that the two black guerrillas of the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) were detained over the Easter weekend about 10 days ago. He gave no names.

Mr. Nel declined to say which black leaders were targeted by the guerrillas, although they are likely to be those regarded by radical blacks as supporters of the white government.

"We are aware of the identification of some that are on the hitlist but we won't say who," said Mr. Nel.

Mr. Nel said indications were that the two Libyan-trained PAC members were part of a group of 150 PAC guerrillas who received political and military instruction in Tripoli, Libya, in 1982.

Meanwhile South Africa's biggest anti-apartheid group, the United Democratic Front (UDF), said Wednesday police had detained one of its leaders, Henry Fazzie.

A police spokesman said he could not yet confirm the arrest of Fazzie, vice-president of the UDF in the eastern Cape. A court recently struck down a government "banning order" on him.

AUDF officer told Reuters by telephone from Port Elizabeth that security police also searched the organisation's office in the city and were looking for another anti-government activist, Mkhulisi Jack.

Fazzie and Jack were last month freed from banning orders which restricted their activity and banned the local media from quoting them. The appeal court said the government has to spell out sufficient reasons for imposing such measures.

Jack last year coordinated a black consumer boycott which crippled many white-owned businesses in the eastern Cape, a region hard-hit by township unrest for much of last year.

'Dirty Harry' becomes California town mayor

CARMEL California (R) — Cinema tough guy Clint Eastwood easily beat 61-year-old former librarian Charlotte Townsend in an election for mayor of the sleepy California ocean resort of Carmel.

The battle for leader of the community of 4,700, about 120 kilometres south of San Francisco, was the most publicised American political campaign so far this year.

Eastwood said becoming mayor was his highest political aspiration. Unlike another Hollywood veteran, Ronald Reagan, he said he had no further aspirations of power.

"This is where it stops," he told a news conference jammed with foreign and national reporters after Tuesday's election victory.

Eastwood, 55, starred as the sharp-shooting gunman in the "spaghetti western" films and later as the tough-talking cop in the Dirty Harry films with his catchphrase "make my day."

He won his mayoral battle overwhelmingly. Despite entering the race only two months ago he gained 2,166 votes to Townsend's 799.

Eastwood was asked if he would keep an office in city hall.

"Yes, I'll be there now and then," he said, a grin spreading across his tanned face.

The vote in Carmel-By-The-Sea — the formal name of the normally quiet resort — ended two months of media attention.

Wife of Swedish police commissioner attacked

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The wife of Police Commissioner Hans Holmer, who is heading the hunt for the killer of Prime Minister Olof Palme, was attacked and threatened by two men when jogging near her home, police said Wednesday.

Ingrid Holmer was out jogging Tuesday evening on a dirt road in the woods near the Holmers' house in the southern Stockholm suburb of Huddinge when two men approached, threatened her and pushed her into a ditch, criminal inspector Harry Hedlund said.

Mrs. Holmer, 42, lost consciousness in the fall but was not seriously injured, Stockholm newspapers reported.

Hedlund told the Associated Press that the two men "threatened the police commissioner

through."

Hedlund, of the Stockholm Criminal Police, would not disclose the wording or nature of the threat, nor would he say if police believed the attack was related to the investigation of the Palme murder, now in its sixth week.

It was the second confirmed threat against Mrs. Holmer. The police commissioner, who has not commented on the Tuesday incident, said earlier that his wife had been approached and threatened last Thursday by an unknown, tall, Swedish-speaking man on a Stockholm street but was unhurt.

Newspaper reports said then that the description of the molester matched a composite portrait released by the police of a suspect called "The shadow," who according to witnesses tailed Olof Palme up to the murder.

"I don't know the gentleman," she said, appearing subdued and with a touch of testiness in her voice.

She told reporters she was surprised by the size of the vote margin.

Eastwood, who has lived in Carmel for 14 years and owns a restaurant there, finished with 72 per cent of the total vote. Nearly three-quarters of the town's electorate voted.

COLUMNS 7&8

9-year-old girl becomes youngest mother

LONDON (R) — A nine-year-old Brazilian girl gave birth to a baby last month and became the world's youngest mother, a London newspaper reported Wednesday. The Daily Mirror, in a story carrying pictures of mother and daughter and tagged a world exclusive, said the birth had confounded doctors. Maria Eliane Jesus Mascarenhas gave birth by Caesarian section to her daughter Dianane on March 25 in Jequié, a town in north east Brazil. The father was a frightened 16-year-old farm labourer who had taken to the bush, the paper said. It added that the young mother, known as Eliane, was being looked after by a 62-year-old homeless land worker. Eliane's own mother died giving birth to her.

Frustrated salesman takes his revenge

SINGAPORE (R) — A frustrated door-to-door salesman locked a woman in her flat after she refused to buy his floor polish, the Straits Times newspaper reported Wednesday. In a letter to the paper, the woman said the salesman knelt down in front of the iron grille outside the door to her flat and began to thrust his hands through to demonstrate his polish on her floor. When the woman lost her temper and slammed the door.

Couples marry in defiance of rabbis

TEL AVIV (R) — Fifteen Ethiopian Jewish couples were married by their high priests in defiance of orders from Israel's chief rabbis to undergo a ritual conversion before marriage. "We did whatever we could to convince the chief rabbis to accept us as Jews and marry us, but they refused. We're fed up, so we have no choice but to get married by our own priests," said 20-year-old Eshahu Bieure. Since a majority of Israel's 15,000 Ethiopian Jews immigrated 16 months ago, the chief rabbis have demanded they undergo a ritual immersion. The rabbis say they fear the immigrants' ancestors may have intermarried with gentiles. Most have refused the rabbis demand, saying they had strictly followed Jewish law since being cut off from mainstream Judaism more than 1,000 years ago. Addisu Mesele, a spokesman for the couples, told reporters another 200 couples would be married by the high priests, or "kesim," who also immigrated from Ethiopia. A few of the brides at the ceremony were pregnant.

Camels to carry vaccines

LONDON (R) — Camels equipped with solar-powered ice boxes will carry vaccines to remote areas of Chad in a UNICEF battle against child killer diseases, U.N. sources have said. The camels will provide a "cold chain" link, the vaccines being preserved in cold storage until they reach isolated centres, said Ulf Kristoffersson, Chad representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). It is hoped to start the mercy run by the end of the year. In February UNICEF began a five-year campaign in Chad to inoculate at least 75 per cent of the country's children. At present one in five infants in Chad die before the age of one.

Woman stoned to death in Iran

TEHRAN (R) — A woman has been stoned to death in Iran for adultery and complicity in the murder of her husband, Resalat newspaper has reported. Newspapers said the woman received 100 lashes and was then stoned in a riverbed in Qom, the holy Shi'ite Muslim clerical centre 130 kilometres south of Tehran. The woman helped her lover, who was executed at the same spot, to kill her husband on a road outside Qom some months ago with two other accomplices, one of whom was jailed for life.

Lange retracts French snub statement

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange backed down Wednesday from his earlier statement that France had ruled out ministerial level contacts with Wellington over the bitter Rainbow Warrior row.

In a brief statement Mr. Lange said there now appeared to be "no substance to information received earlier which asserted French ministers would not meet their New Zealand counterparts until two French agents ... were released."

At a press conference on Monday, Mr. Lange said that ties with Paris continued to be strained over 10-year jail terms given to two French secret service agents for their part in mining the flagship of the environmental group Greenpeace last July.

Mr. Lange told reporters then the response to his offer of talks with newly-elected French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac had been:

"... that there would be no meeting at any ministerial level ... until the two agents are released."

In Wednesday's statement he said: "No official communication to this effect has been received from the French authorities."

Officials told Reuters Mr. Lange's initial statement had been an off-the-cuff reaction to press and verbal reports of the attitude of the right-wing government which won power last month.

New Zealand remained "keen to keep the channels of communication between Wellington and Paris open in an effort to restore relations to a more productive and friendly state," Mr. Lange added.

Relations between the two have been near breaking point since France admitted ordering the mining to stop the Rainbow Warrior from leading a protest voyage against the French nuclear testing site

at Mururoa atoll in French Polynesia.

France has repeatedly called for the release of its two agents, claiming they were acting under orders and should not be held personally responsible for the Auckland dockside blast which sank the ship and caused one crew member to drown.

The pair, Alain Mafart and Dominique Priour, are due for parole after five years and Mr. Lange has repeatedly said they would be repatriated early only if Paris guaranteed to keep them in jail in France.

Meanwhile, Britain's junior foreign minister, Baroness Young, said Wednesday the Thatcher government would resist threats by France to veto access for New Zealand's farm produce into the European Community over the Rainbow Warrior affair.

U.S. to sell China \$550m electronics equipment

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration has announced it would sell \$550 million of military electronics equipment to China to help modernise that country's air force F-8 fighter interceptors.

The latest step by Washington to secure closer ties with Peking will go through automatically unless Congress registers formal disapproval of the sale within 30 days.

This sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been an important force for political stability and economic progress in Asia and the world," the Defence Department said in a statement Tuesday.

The sale of 55 integrated avionics system kits at \$10 million each, to be used on Chinese-built F-8 fighters, would be Washington's first major direct military sale to Peking.

The Reagan administration announced last year that it was

offering the Chinese an option to pay up to \$98 million to buy a plant which could produce artillery ammunition, primers, fuses and explosives.

The prime contractor for procurement of the F-8 avionics kits will be an American aerospace manufacturer to be selected later by the U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon said.

Air force officials said the kits would give the F-8 more ability to detect and intercept enemy aircraft.

The sale would require the assignment of 25 U.S. contractor personnel to China for a minimum of nine months. Eleven would remain in China for three years.

The U.S. Air Force also said that up to five of its personnel would be in China for one to six years "on temporary or continuing assignments."

That was not explained, but it was expected that the air force personnel would help Chinese pilots learn to use the sophisticated equipment.

Khmer Rouge claims killing over 3,000 Vietnamese troops

BANGKOK (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas said they killed 3,188 Vietnamese troops and wounded 3,312 in clashes throughout Kampuchea last month. The Khmer Rouge radio station said in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok that casualties included 640 soldiers killed in the Western town of Pailin, near the border with Thailand, more than 500 in the Kampong Thom-Kampong Cham area and nearly 250 in areas north west of Phnom Penh.

There was no independent confirmation of the toll. Western diplomats generally consider casualty reports by the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge to be exaggerated.

In February the guerrillas said they killed more than 2,500 Vietnamese and wounded about 2,700. Vietnam has an estimated 170,000 troops in Kampuchea supporting the Phnom Penh government which it installed after ousting the Khmer Rouge in 1979.

Waldheim denies atrocity reports in 13-page memo

WASHINGTON (R) — Former United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has denied in a 13-page memo that he took part in Nazi war crimes in Yugoslavia and Greece, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

The Post said it had obtained a copy of the memo from his son, Gerhard Waldheim, who said it is also being sent to the current U.N. Secretary General, Javier Perez de Cuellar.

In the memo, Dr. Waldheim acknowledged he served with the German army in Yugoslavia and Greece from April, 1942, until the end of the war in 1945, the Post said.

Dr. Waldheim said he had served only as a non-combatant staff officer and German-Italian interpreter. He said many claims against him were due to misunderstandings about the titles and duties assigned to him in German army records.

The U.S. Department of Justice said Tuesday night it has asked to see records of the U.N. War Crimes Commission concerning Dr. Waldheim to decide whether he should be barred from entry to the United States.

In the memo Dr. Waldheim said he was serving as liaison officer with Italian troops some 320 kilometres away when his combat Group West carried out reprisals against Yugoslav Partisans in the Kozara Mountains, in July, 1942.

He also said he had been evacuated before the retreating German army burned Yugoslav villages near Sipi and Kocame on Oct. 20, 1944.

Austrian and Israeli officials Wednesday study U.N. files which they hope will shed light on the

firmation of the toll. Western diplomats generally consider casualty reports by the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge to be exaggerated.

In February the guerrillas said they killed more than 2,500 Vietnamese and wounded about 2,700.

Vietnam has an estimated 170,000 troops in Kampuchea supporting the Phnom Penh government which it installed after ousting the Khmer Rouge in 1979.

The existence of the file was disclosed in a 1948 United States army document, "Central Registry of War Criminals and Security Suspects," unearthed last month by the WJC in the National Archives in Washington.

Netanyahu, who first requested permission to see the U.N. file, has agreed to let his Austrian colleague study it first.

Fischer is expected to be accompanied by the Austrian ambassador to Washington, Thomas Klestil.

The file on Dr. Waldheim, number 79/724, is one of about 40,000 on war criminals, suspects and witnesses that were deposited with the United Nations when the commission completed its work in 1948.

Since they contain unevaluated data, they may be examined only by government representatives and their contents are supposed to be confidential.

Previous files opened to government scrutiny were those on Adolf Eichmann, executed in Israel in 1962, Klaus Barbie, now awaiting trial in France, and Josef Mengele, whose remains are believed to have been found in Brazil.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Extension

BRIDGE COLLAPSE

By Sidney L. Robbins

ACROSS
1 Highway
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9 Surprise
10 Long for
13 Incite
15 — manna
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23 Start of verse
27 Extreme shortage
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30 Deep urges
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DOWN
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2 Honeycombed with paths
3 Movie award
4 Winged
5 What person
6 Seek game
7 Culture
8 Clean system
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10 Pinder output
11 Kind of trench
12 Lead roller
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14 — in waiting
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18 Cars
19 Cars
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26 Entry
27 A Teasdale's namesake
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29 Signor
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